

July 2018



City of Abilene

Kirby Lake Park

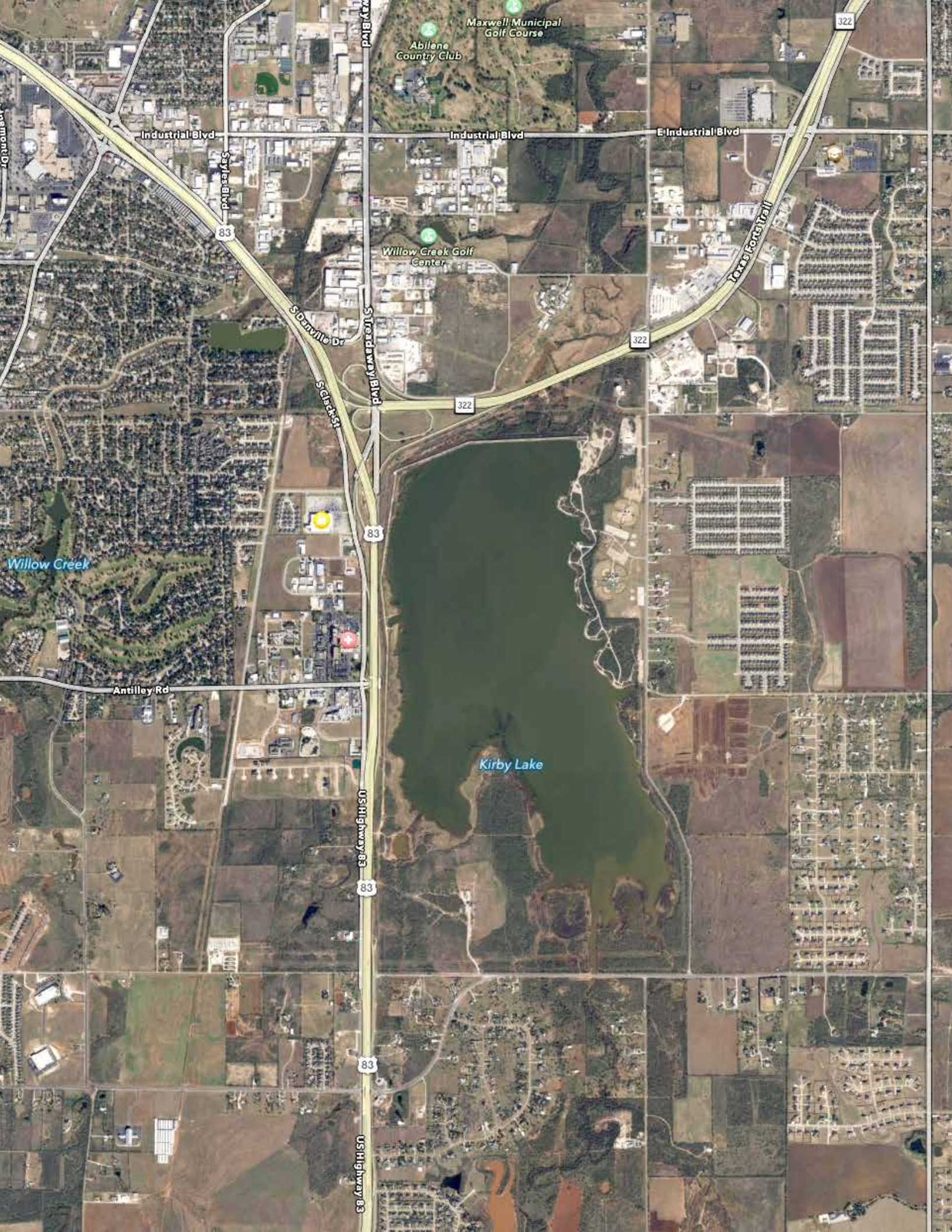
Master Plan

Prepared by:



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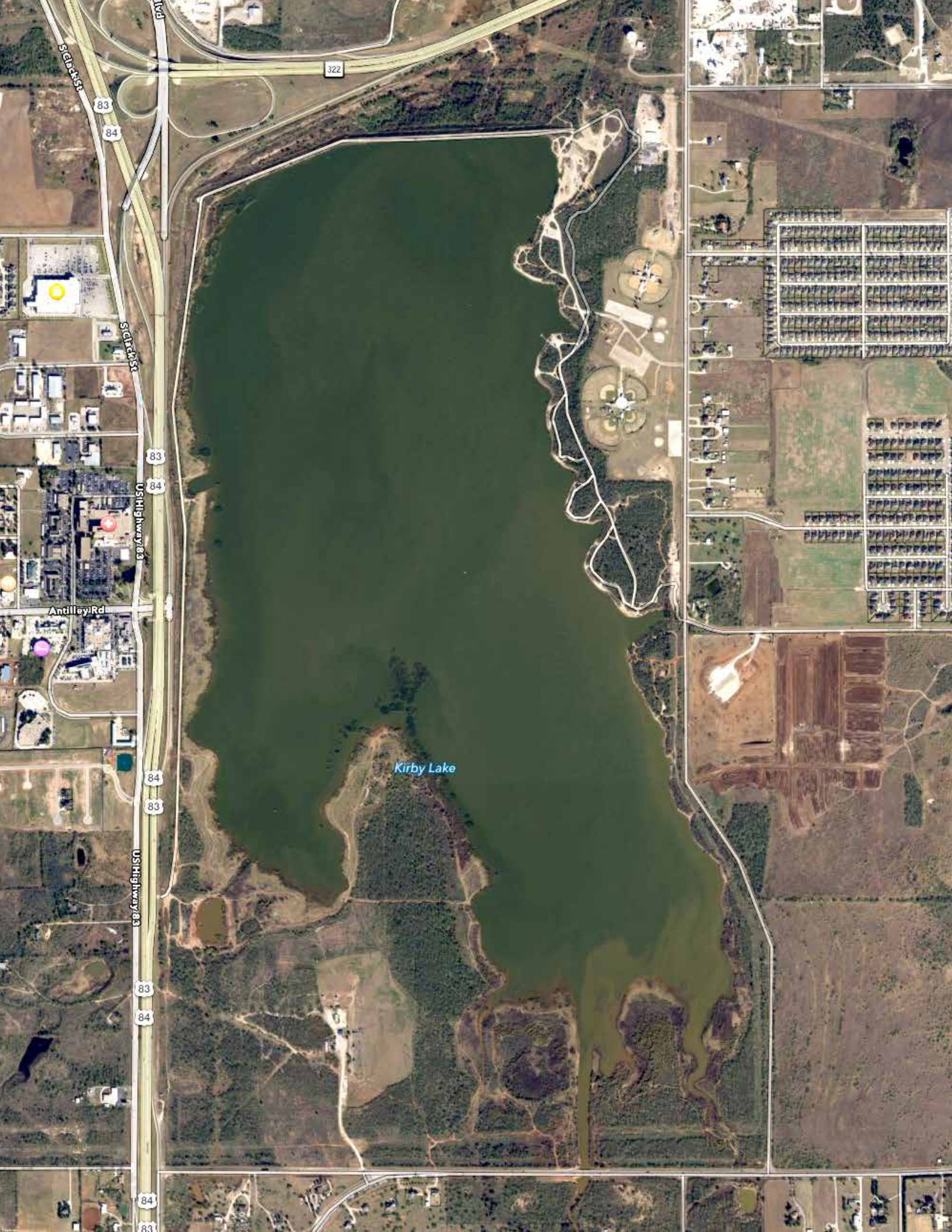


Table of Contents

1. Acknowledgements

2. Introduction & Process

***3. Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas
Process***

4. Public Engagement

5. Conceptual Master Plan

6. Implementation

Appendices

A. Stakeholder Meeting Notes

B. Online Public Survey Comments

C. Post Card Survey Responses

D. Local Residents



Chapter 1
Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

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Nicole Eaves

In addition, Vista Planning & Design wishes to thank all of the stakeholder participants in providing detailed conversations regarding the needs, and conditions at Kirby Lake Park.

Planning & Design Consultant
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Chapter 2

Introduction & Process

Master planning Kirby Lake Park has been in discussion for many years and has been highlighted as a priority in the City of Abilene's Parks, Recreation, & Senior Facilities Master Plan.

It is important to note the whole of Kirby Lake land and water area is not all parkland. The actual defined parkland is the area closely surrounding the ball fields and extending south as far as the paved road. To the north, the boundary is where the Street Department and spillway of the dam structure are located. The remainder of the land is under control of the Water Department as the lake itself is a Water Department utility. It is thought the original uses of Kirby Lake, when it was constructed in 1928, was for flood control. Over time that function modified so that Kirby today, in addition to the impoundment of Cedar Creek, is a repository of effluent from a water treatment plant in Abilene.

Legal uses at Kirby Lake, outside of the Water Department's functions, have primarily been fishing, gun club lease, boat testing by Tige, ball games, and leisure activities. Illegal uses have also been noted and concerns are outlined in the following plan.

Various groups have expressed a strong interest to see improvements from fishing & cycling to nature viewing and photography. There are many uses at Kirby Lake however most interests can be classified into two primary areas; sports and nature recreational activity.

This report is primarily focused on the later, however as this project was working through the process as described within this document, the ball fields were undergoing their own master planning process. The planning and design work here has been coordinated to the best possible outcome regarding how the two processes and plans coordinate together.

Early in 2017, the Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas (WFS) was granted funds to develop a project for children's education. WFS had been considering nature play for children from the ages of 7 years and younger. Through conversations with the City it was determined that Kirby Lake was the logical site for this project, mostly due to the conversations that have already been taking place over previous years. The need for general improvements to the lake has been called out in the city-wide parks master plan.

The discussions at the city resulted in a two part



Drone Photography Courtesy of Dr. Rick Hammer

project. The first part was to develop a concept for the WFS specific nature play goal, develop the plans through construction documents and build what the budget allowed. The second part of the project was to master plan the entire lake area so that the resulting master plan could be used to leverage Texas Parks and Wildlife grant funding programs to develop features far beyond what the WFS would be able to afford. Utilizing this strategy made sense due to the calls for so many different kinds of renovations at the lake.

The first actions in the project were to gather together a group of WFS and Friends of Kirby Lake to discuss the nature play concept and to develop, in a workshop structure, a draft plan that would be the jumping off point for the rest of the project. This is discussed in more detail in a following chapter.

Moving forward with the larger lake master planning, postcard surveys targeting fishing patrons and other park users met on site, were developed and passed out on site. This allowed for a face to face discussion with many folks who may not otherwise get involved with the project. The city and consultant organized a list of stakeholders that were grouped into six intensive

meetings. These meetings were about one and a half hours long each, and digitally recorded to preserve the accuracy of the reporting of the minutes. The stakeholder groups were specific groups of people, organizations, and institutions that already have some type of relationship to the lake or have the potential of a significant relationship such as the cycling community. These notes and surveys are listed in later sections of this report as well as the appendices. A short ten question survey was developed to post online for all of Abilene to see and submit comments. The online survey gathered 743 responses with 693 comments, which makes this a statistically valid survey in a city of approximately 120,000 residents.

Through this process of information gathering, the master plan was developed and through cyclic review and revision process, finalized and approved by the City of Abilene Parks and Recreation Board on April 3, 2018.

Following this meeting the remaining document of process descriptions and acknowledgements was finalized and circulated back to the city for final edits and then submission to Abilene City Council for final approval and adoption on July 26, 2018.





Chapter 3

Workforce Solutions Of West Central Texas Process

Children's Intelligent Nature Play

Stimulating Curiosity,

Activating Motor Skills,

& Growing Intelligence

Strategies from Different Schools of Thought

Newer Theories of Practice:

- Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences
- Attention Restoration Theory
- Intrinsic Motivation
- Experiential Education/ Sensory Exploration
- Health Benefits of Experiencing Natural Places

Strategies from Different Schools of Thought

Past Practices:

- Summer Camp
- Scouting Organizations
- Adventure Playgrounds
- Children's Gardens
- Play Zoos
- Urban Farming/ Childrens Gardening
- Forest Kindergartens

Main Questions:



What Land Area to Utilize

Level of Design &
Construction Intervention

User Group Identification

Risk Management

What Are The Goals?

Intelligent Natural Play Strategies:

1. Integrated into natural settings
2. Multiple space options
3. Divisions according to age groups (safety & mastery)
4. Natural elements, semi-natural elements, synthetic elements
5. Physical, mental, sensory activities including imagination
6. Signage, education, & interpretation
7. Regulatory requirements
8. Funding



Launching the entire process of the Kirby Lake Park master planning was made possible with funding that came to the City from Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas, (WFS). Without their wonderful contribution, this work would not have happened for quite some time.

WFS's mission with this investment was to develop play and education for children 0-7 years of age. The structure of the play and education was to be centered on nature therefore play elements and educational elements were to be natural experiential learning spaces. The site chosen for this was Kirby Lake Park. To launch the design process the City, Vista, and WFS decided to jumpstart the process with a workshop to get all ideas on the table for discussion and develop a rough framework by which a final plan could be developed. The workshop was conducted over a one day period with Vista, WFS, the City, and one invited organization; The Friends of Kirby Lake. This invitation was considered since The Friends of Kirby Lake had been working with Vista over the course of a couple of years to develop a nature park concept for Kirby Lake Park.

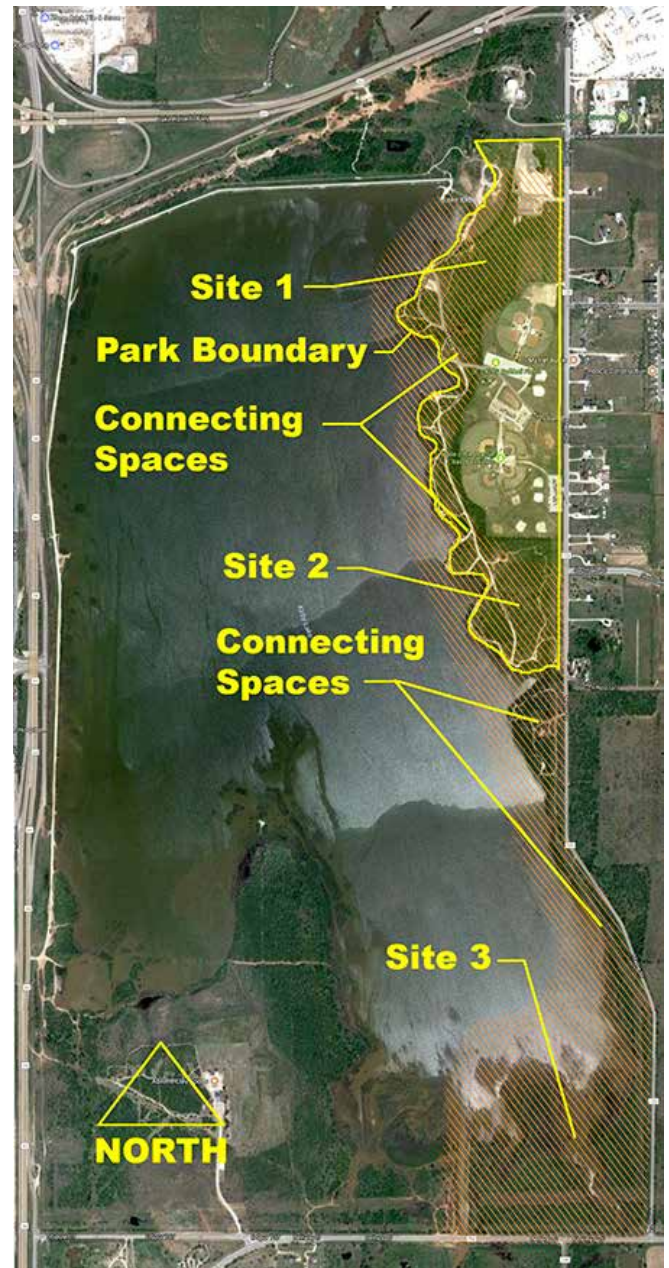
The process of decision making was first to develop an overall concept for natural play and education. The first page of this chapter features several slides from the introductory program



discussing natural play and theory of design and development. (The previous page is the result of that work.) Much of this work was carried forward into the overall master plan. From this point, the limited amount of funding for construction required that a first phase site be identified where the most functionality could be realized. Out of three most likely choices, the group decided on the existing play-ground space due to existing parking, infrastructure and use.



Example of climbing logs

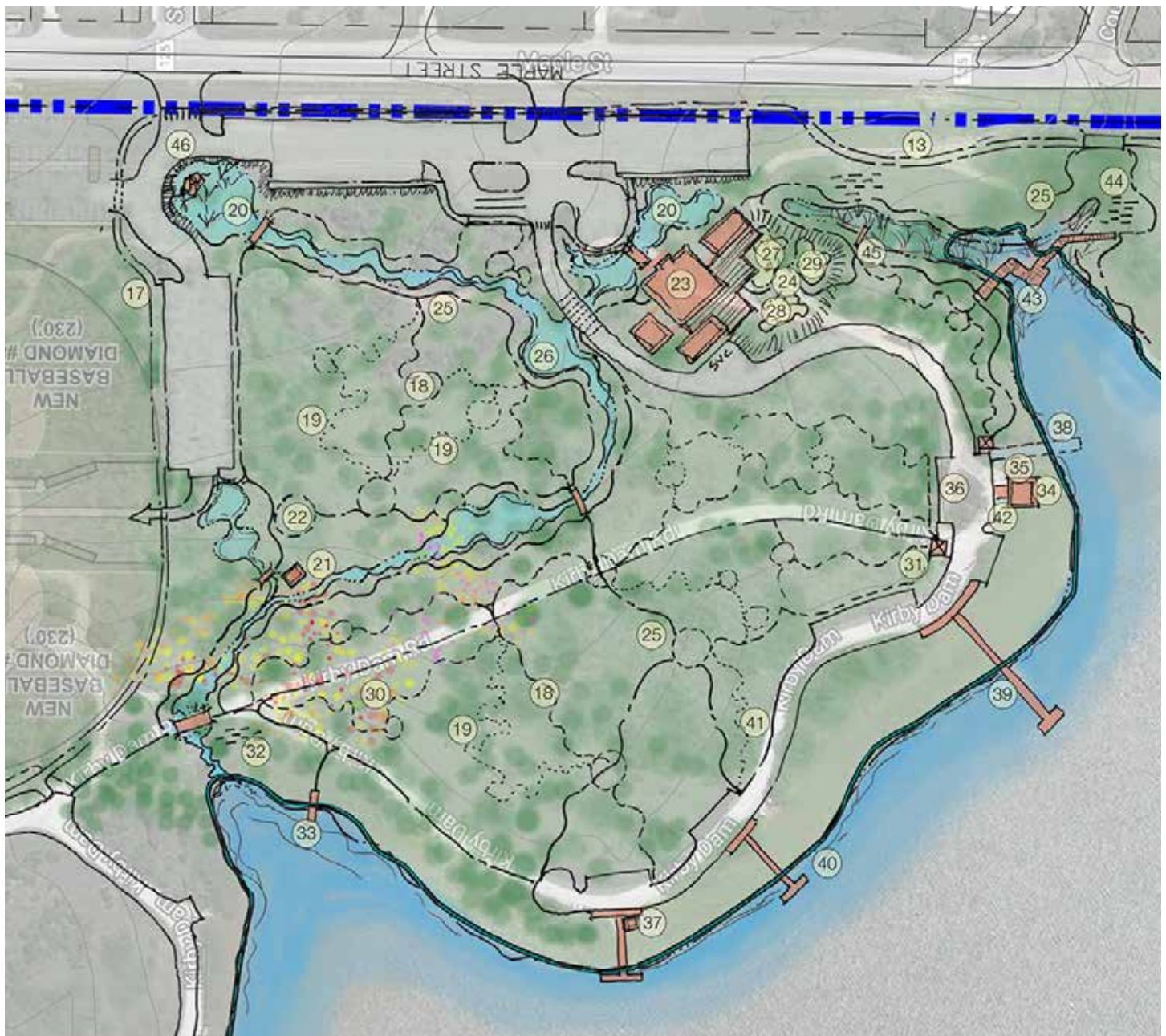


The following maps are enlargements of the previous master plan illustration showing the details of each site with some description. The first one is the North Playscape Site which was chosen as the first phase development. With this early concept, much of what is already being developed originally came about due to this workshop and resulting plan. The end of this chapter shows the final concept and the associated educational signage that will be placed so that educators and other visitors can gain a more in depth meaning of the landscape around them.

In Chapter 5, Conceptual Master Plan, the elements from this work and the resulting overall master plan are described in detail as to what the intentions are for the elements.



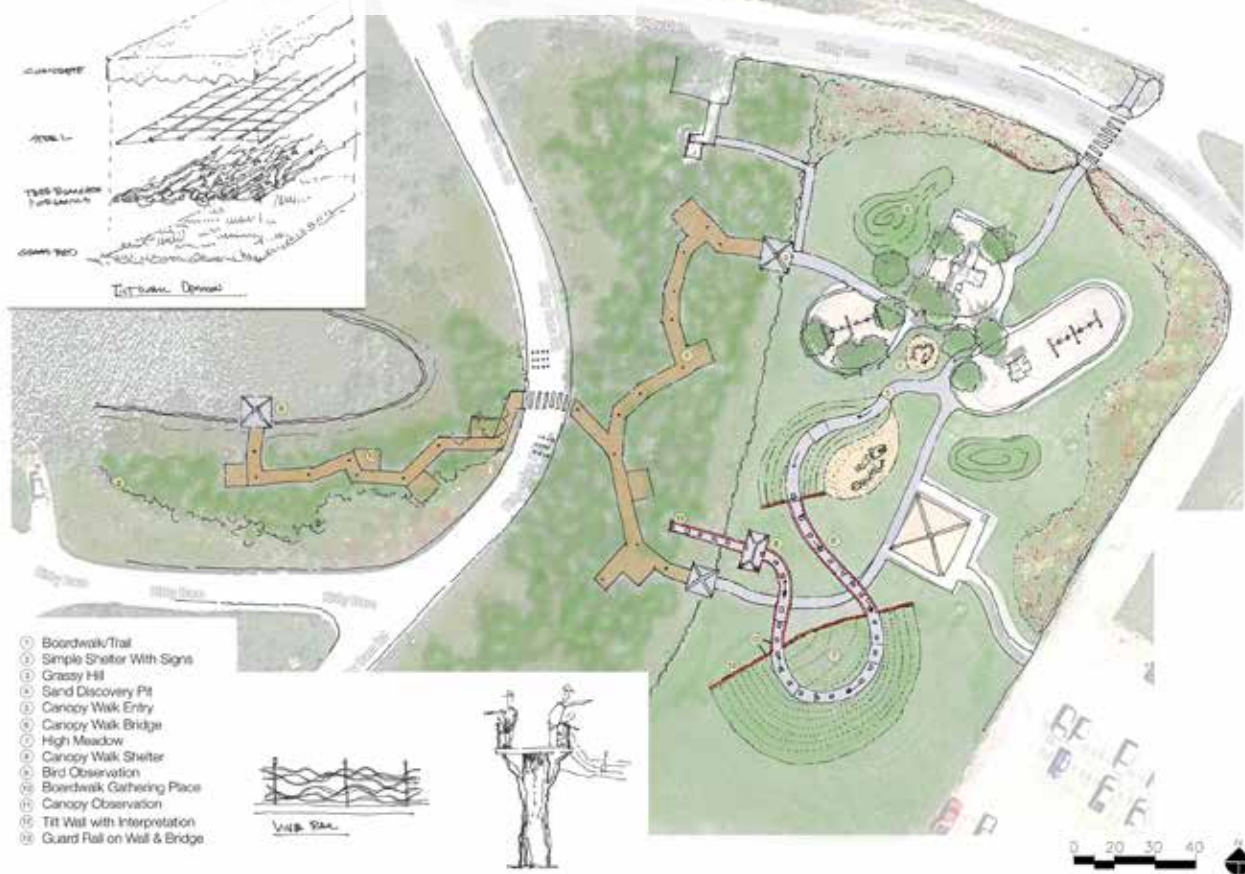
Boardwalk example demonstrating sensitive land impacts



South Primary Site

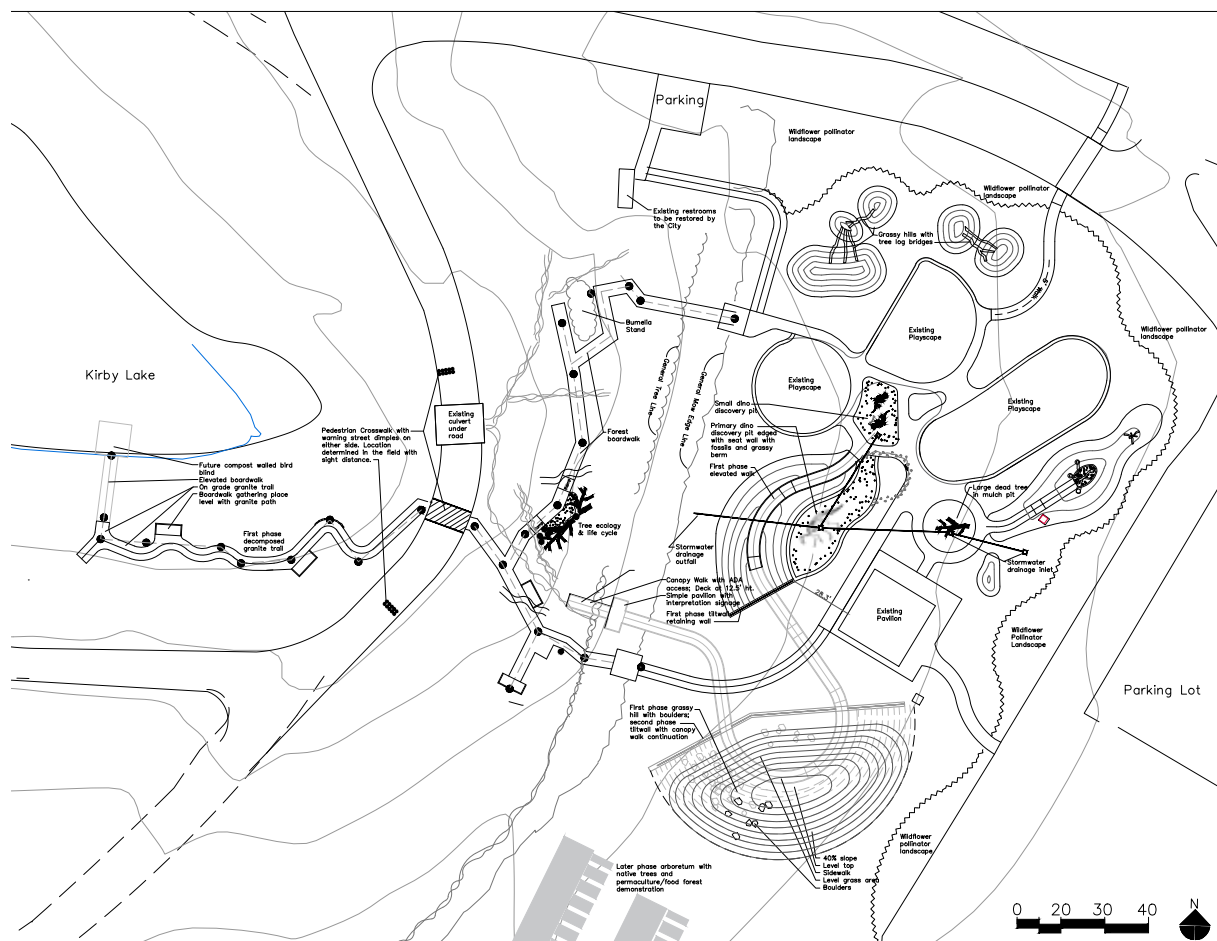
- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ①7 Hike & Bike Trail | ②8 Loose Parts |
| ①8 Secondary Trail; Mulch | ②9 Log Rumble |
| ①9 Tertiary Trail; 3'-5' Rough Trail | ③0 Wildflower Meadow |
| ②0 Riparian Habitat; Bio Retention Filtration | ③1 Simple Shelter with Education |
| ②1 Shelter with Education & Boardwalk | ③2 Bat Colony Houses |
| ②2 Discovery Node; Typical | ③3 Bird Blind |
| ②3 Science & Education Center | ③4 Fish Camp |
| ②4 Safe Zone & Barrier; 0-7 yrs | ③5 Fish Cleaning & Education |
| ②5 Primary Trails; ADA Accessible | ③6 Parking |
| ②6 Water Play | ③7 Simple Shelter with Education |
| ②7 Bone Discovery | ③8 Kayak & Canoe Launch |
| | ③9 Fishing Pier |

Conceptual Retaining Tiltwall Design



Conceptual Canopy Walk Details

First Phase Site Plan; Playscape Site





Final Rendering of Playscape Site



Project Sign Placed At Pavilion

Signage Interpretive Program

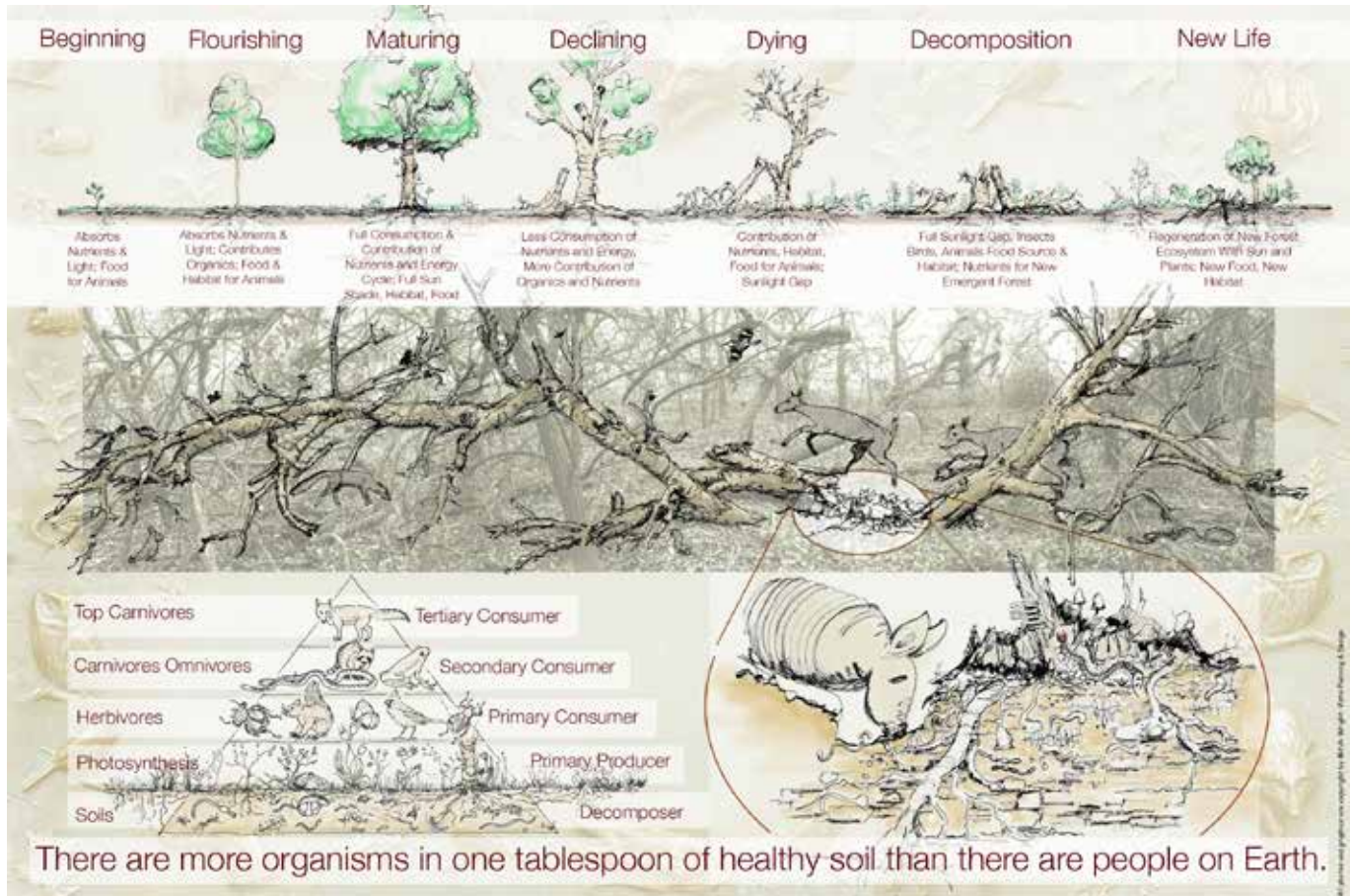


Local Animals and Their Tracks



Bird Species

Ecological Cycle of Trees



Actual Site Photograph of the tree that the boardwalk passes by

There are complex concepts being conveyed by this sign. Generally it is couched in the life cycle of a tree; from sprouting from a seed, through life and death. Drilling down deeper the existing tree fall site that the boardwalk passes by is in the later stages of the cycle and warrants discussion about the connection of trees to soil; trees thrive on soil and trees help to create soil.

Taking a look at the soil horizon, which is an intersection of communities that the tree experiences in this stage. The armadillo seeks out food, animals seek out shelter. Soil organisms live their lives in the soil feeding on other animals or organic materials.



Chapter 4

Public Engagement

6 Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings

Process Summary & Schedule

Format of the meetings:

- Attendees will consist of one or two representatives of each organization.
- Try to limit attendees to 10 people excluding Vista.
- Vista will present a brief overview to include the WFS phase and showing maps
- Vista will have all maps on hand
- Discussion will start with going around room with introductions and brief statement of interests or involvement in Kirby Lake.
- Free form discussion thereafter with a few guided questions from Vista.
- All meetings will be digitally recorded for subsequent minutes of the meeting

General Schedule:

Days for meeting available: October 4th, 5th, 10th-13th, 18th-20th

Meeting times are as follows for each day selected;

9:00am -	10:30 First Meeting
11:00am -	12:30 Second Meeting
2:00pm -	3:30 Third Meeting
4:00pm -	5:30 Fourth Meeting (Only if necessary)

The Lengthy notes to the stakeholder meetings are located in the appendix.



October 17, 2017

Public Engagement: Stakeholder Meeting List by Groupings

Group 1 4 th 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City: Community Services • Public Works • Water Department • First Responders; EMS, Fire, Police • Capital Projects/CIP 	City to Contact
Group 2 4 th 2:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas • Friends of Kirby Lake • Big Country Audubon Society • West Texas Science Center 	Vista to Contact
Group 3 5 th 9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPWD • Fishing • Boy Scouts 	City to Contact
Group 4 5 th 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abilene ISD • Wylie ISD 	Vista & City
Group 5 5 th 2:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Dept. • P&Z (Past Member) • Keep Abilene Beautiful • Abilene MPO • American Institute of Parliamentarians • Chamber • Abilene Young Professionals • Girl Scouts 	Vista to Contact Boy Scouts; City to contact others
Group 6 6 th 9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Country Trail Runners • Keep Abilene Beautiful • Wylie Fast Pitch • Wylie Fast Pitch Softball • Wylie Little League Baseball • Bike Town and cycling clubs • Abilene Clay Sports • Abilene Public Works 	City to Contact



Vista's Question Prompts & Notes;

These are a series of notes used to prompt questions and to keep the conversation dynamic and flowing

Group 1:

- What is the reality of budgets and financing security, waste control, and vandalism?
- What examples or opportunities are there for volunteerism to fill the gaps; ie, adopt a road, more regular KAB events?
- What infrastructure improvements are scheduled that the park can take advantage of?
- What is happening in Planning that may have an influence on facilities or need space for uses? Is this the fastest area of growth in Abilene?
- Any future bond referendums being considered? Any private development that can be leveraged with infrastructure?
- Safety, EMS, Fire; what hazards are obvious that needs to be addressed including proximity to the gun club?
- Camping?? Swimming?
- Crime and drug use?

Group 2:

- So far the missions between these groups have been in sync. How do you see coordination with other uses such as fishing, hiking and biking, boating & Jet skis, Swimming if that ever came about?
- What is the vision of the Parks Board for Kirby and the whole area for parks?
- What is the vision or anticipation for future funding either through your groups or city, or grants?
- It seems like building a collaborative working agenda can leverage dollars to go further; ie, science being conducted by the schools, or WTSC and interpreted by the nature park components.
- What is the long term vision of the WFS and WTSC relationship with Kirby Lake Park?

Group 3:

- I am eager for scouting to take a strong role in using the park as a resource for scouting activities including eagle scout projects, Hornaday award projects, and girl scout equivalents.
- Can the gun club support scouting with merit badge requirements and other skill training?
- How do you characterize the general population of fishermen out at the lake? My observation is that the majority of the trash is from fishing activities. How can this be successfully changed?
- Does scouting need a large site for group events? Camping??
- What are the goals of TPWD for Kirby Lake? Is swimming on the table for discussion?

Group 4:

- What role should the ISD's have in the park for educational purposes? What function would the schools like to have available?
- Is there a relationship between the ISDs and the universities?
- Are there gaps in science and nature education that Kirby lake park can fulfill? Could this be a joint effort between ISDs and universities?

Group 5:

- As the city leadership, where does Kirby Lake and parks in general stand in the priorities of the city with regard to annual CIP/budgets?
- What models of philanthropy or volunteerism do you expect or envision as a potential for Kirby Lake moving forward given the current vision so far?
- It has come up in conversation more than once that the mudders need a new place to go; Comments?
- Swimming and Camping?
- Vista sees a potential park project developing over the course of many years that can become the new flagship park for Abilene in the south side, how important do you think that could be AND how much support would south side residents lend to the effort?
- Economic Development: how much does Abilene promote Abilene parks for economic development/business attraction? You have an amazing zoo

for a city this size, Cedar Creek vision will be a major asset once completed, Nelson Park master plan, and now Kirby Lake Park.

- What do you anticipate as the economic impact of the park development?
- What do you see as the quality of life impact?
- What kind of facilities can have both high value economic impact and great quality of life enhancements?

Group 6

- Where do you ride bikes or run in the city for distances? Are there linkages potentially connecting Kirby Lake Park to a broader system of trails and corridors?
- Is there a particular distance that would be useful for a trail for running or biking around the lake?
- Is the current master plan for the ball fields what you see as the build-out? Does this plan meet the needs of significant tournaments and therefore finances and economic impact?
- How fast do you think these fields will get developed?
- Do you see the other uses as in conflict with the league activities or as a supportive function? How best can the relationship between these uses be enhanced?
- Can the gun club support scouting with merit badge requirements and other skill training?
- Draw a line on the map as to the absolute limit of people near the perimeter of the shooting activities.
- What are the gun clubs plans for the future? Heard about wanting to expand the facility.

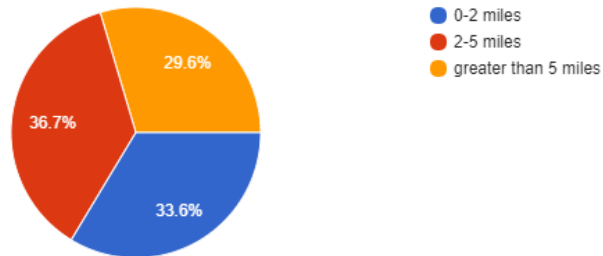


Online Public Survey

Lake Kirby Nature Park Survey Results 12/18/17

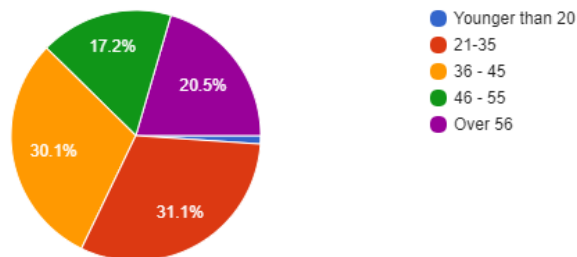
Approximately how close do you live to Kirby Lake?

743 responses



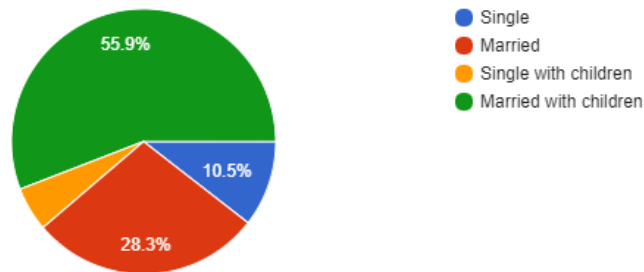
Please select your age group.

743 responses



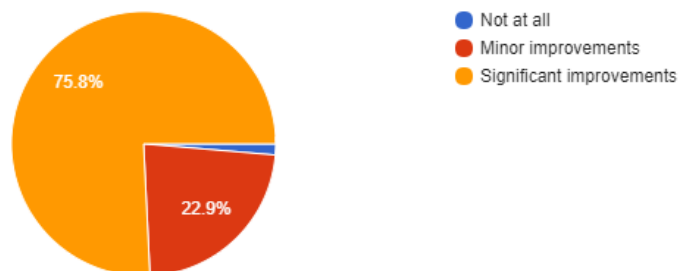
What is your household makeup?

743 responses



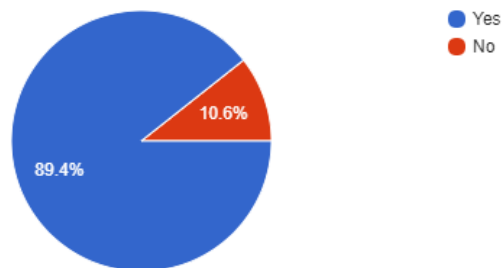
Do you believe Kirby Lake should be improved?

743 responses



As a citizen would you support tax dollars being used to fund these improvements?

743 responses



Please select the activities you would like to see added or enhanced?

<u>Top 7</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Hiking/Biking	548	73.8
Fishing	469	63.1
Nature Play(scape) areas	395	53.2
Camping	352	47.4
Boating	300	40.4
Bird/Nature Watching	278	37.4
Nature Education	264	35.5

Please note: This question has the option to add an "Other" response. Those responses are not reflected in this report.

Please select the facilities you would like to see added or enhanced?

<u>Top 7</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Hiking/Biking trails	556	75.1
Restrooms	540	73
Fishing piers	458	61.9
Playscape areas	347	46.9
Parking	292	39.5
Pavillion	273	36.9
Nature Education	240	32.4

Please note: This question has the option to add an "Other" response. Those responses are not reflected in this report.

What recommendations do you have that would help the City maintain current or additional improvements?

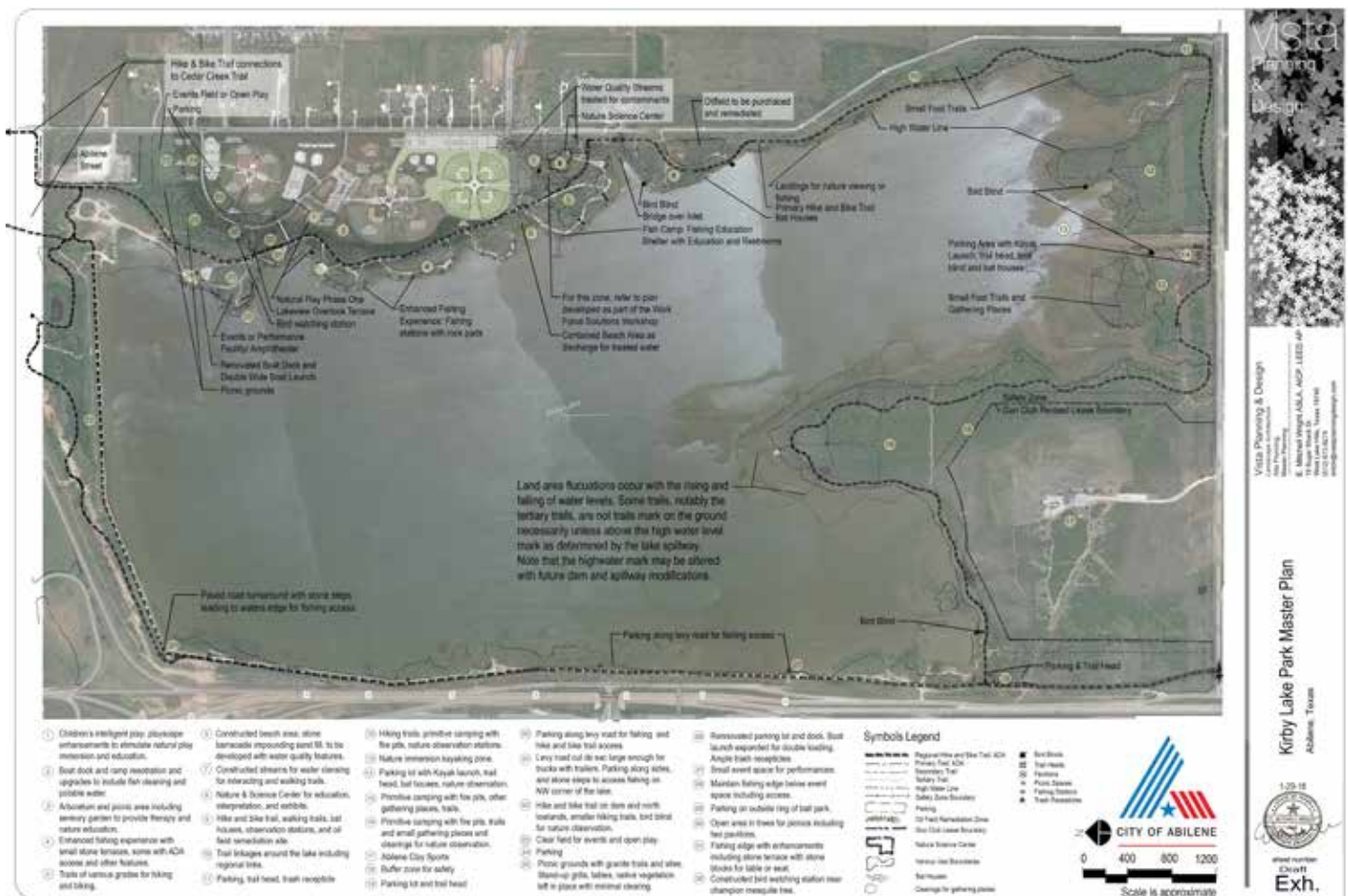
<u>Top 7</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Hire more staff	469	63.1
Hire more security	364	49

Please note: This question has the option to add an "Other" response. Those responses are not reflected in this report.



Chapter 5

Conceptual Master Plan



The overall master plan for Kirby Lake Park was produced in part with the front end Workforce Solutions planning process. The most intense areas of planning were encompassed in these areas including fishing enhancements and a nature science center. Beyond this area much of the site consisted of trails constructed to various levels of refinement from rough single path trails to regional hike and bike trails.

Although possibly not legible at this scale of map, the aerial used for planning was taken when water was over the spillway indicating that the water level was at the high water mark. This waterline was digitized to guide the trail and facilities planning moving forward.

In the case of the southern end which is the shallowest portion of the lake, certain areas are open for walking at different times of the year depending on the influx of water in the watershed. Being that trails are prominent around the lake, so too are facilities for nature

enjoyment. This low impact, low infrastructure use makes perfect sense for Kirby and Abilene for multiple reasons. Developing trails and nature viewing activities were very highly supported as demonstrated in the online surveys and the stakeholder meetings as well as the most prominent user group, the fishermen. Hike and bike trails, specifically cycling trails was also highly supported.

The gun club is a popular place for sportsmen to enjoy an afternoon of clay shooting. This club allows shotguns only and has a specific lease to which they are confined. During this planning process, the gun club was renegotiating their lease and petitioning for an expansion of the lease property. The consultant in conversation with the City made a judgement call to set a boundary that allowed trails to circumnavigate the entire lake perimeter. There were multiple reasons that drove this decision. First and foremost the purpose was for allowing police and EMS services to have as complete an access to the lake as possible. This new lease line pro-

vided a narrow pathway for trails and services to follow the perimeter of the lake. The 2nd determinant was from the cycling community and the multiple calls for having quality places off street for cycling clubs and families to ride without the worry of being hit by a vehicle. In the stakeholder meetings and public surveys a high level of requests for this came up many times. The third determinant was the city and specifically the water department wanting to keep the water edge clear of constraints and supportive of access around the entire perimeter of the lake.

Since the majority of the land is under the control of the water department, there is a lot of restrictions that have to be respected. The main structure of the lake in terms of the water department are the main dam with the associated spillway on the east end of the dam and the levy structure which is the western edge of the lake topped by a

gravel road. On these structures, no improvements outside of the mission and purpose of the Water Department would be allowed. There are some improvements that are being allowed. These are primarily trails to complete the loop system around the lake and one nature observation station; a bird blind.

In general, The entire developed areas of the park should include provisions for recycling to promote a more sustainable use, and accessibility for mobility and visually challenged patrons.

The master plan shows numbered positions on the map distributed around the area. These numbers correspond to the list at the bottom of the map and an expanded description of those areas are listed in the following pages.



#LoveYourLake

KIRBY LAKE CLEANUP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
KIRBY LAKE
5650 MAPLE STREET



8:00-11:00 AM *Clean Up*

11:00 AM *Announcement & Lunch*



KIRBY LAKE MASTER PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE FIRST 100 VOLUNTEERS WHO REGISTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION **325.734.3301**



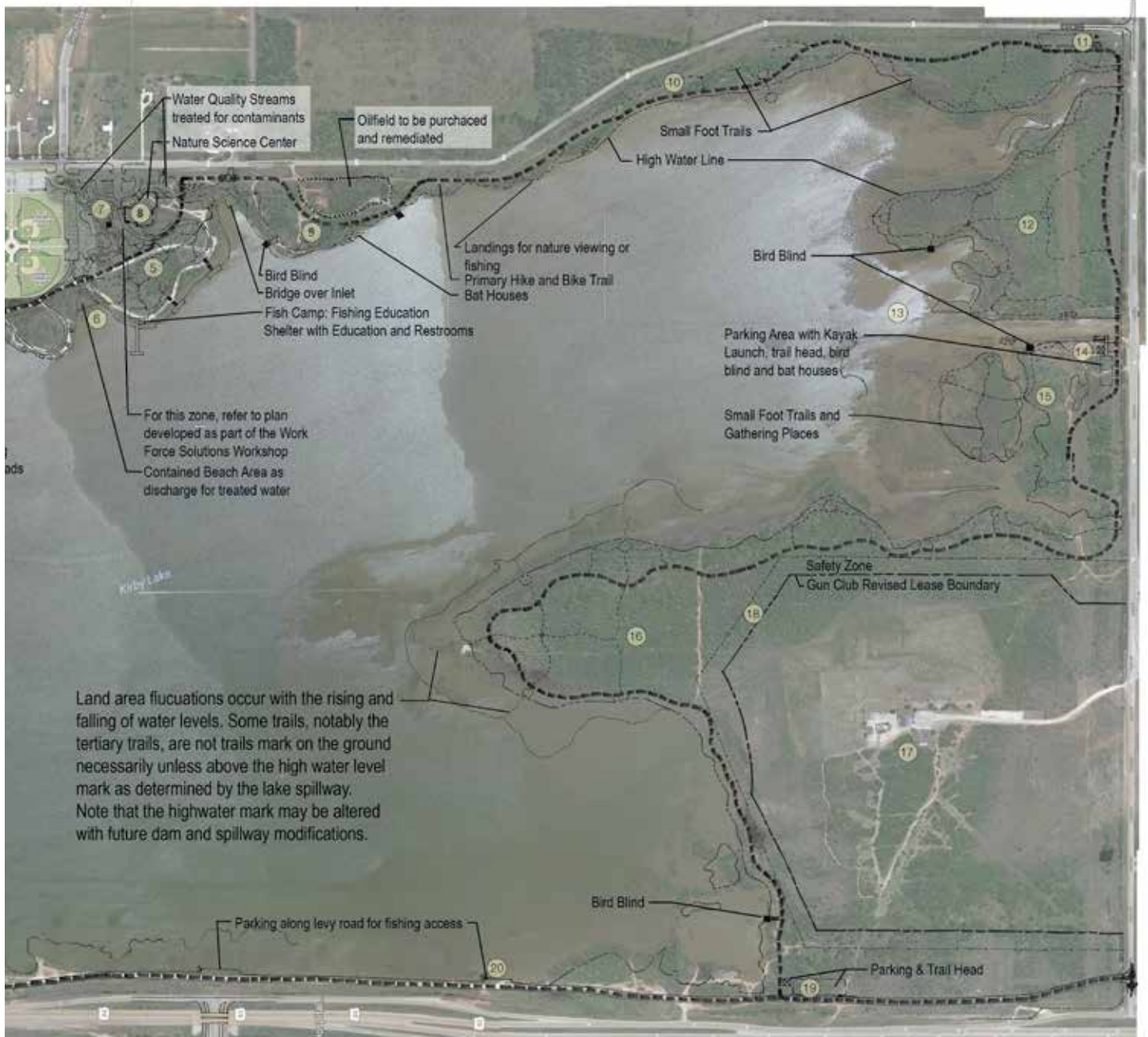
CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU

#LoveYourLake









Elements Within Master Plan:

Numbered elements listed below correspond to the numbering on the master planning maps

1. Children's intelligent nature play; playscape enhancements to stimulate natural play immersion and education. This portion of the project was the first phase of construction. Not shown is the actual document of what is to be bid, but the final illustration plan shows first phase and future phases of this area with multiple features to stimulate the curiosity of children with the natural world.



2. Boat dock and ramp restoration and upgrades to include fish cleaning and potable water.

Much of the improvements anticipated on the master plan include enhancements to fishing. The boat dock is in serious need of renovation and anchoring. Wind causes damage and it is the hope of the fishing community that no more of the free floating docks be provided, but the construction of solid anchored dock systems are needed to prevent damage. Proper disposal of fish remains was brought up in discussions as well, therefore two places propose cleaning stations with fresh potable water for final rinsing. This location has a very narrow boat ramp that needs renovations. Damage to boats and trailers have been witnessed multiple times when attempting to load and unload from this ramp.

3. Arboretum and picnic area, including sensory garden, to provide therapy and nature education on native trees in the area. This area proposes three elements; native tree plantings of all varieties possible, a demonstration of permaculture techniques of land form, water harvesting and retention and plantings that mimic natural settings and whole ecosystems. The third is to allow picnicking in this area to enjoy the shade of trees once established.



4. Enhanced fishing experience with small stone terraces some with ADA access and other features.

The edges of the lake, where patrons fish, is a degraded edge that is difficult for mobility challenged people. There is a need to have a stable surface

for chairs, coolers and other simple features. This plan proposes constructing a series of approximately 12' x 12' stone terraces from the native stone on site, so that fishermen and families have a place to set up chairs for a more enjoyable experience. Stone block may be added to serve as table surfaces or holes could be drilled for holding fishing rods. Where practical, tree plantings to provide shade would also be a benefit.



5. Trails of various grades for hiking and biking. High on the list of requests from the surveys was hike and bike trails. This plan features multiple levels of trail development, including the highest two types that allow ADA accessibility. The main trail goes around the lake in its entirety and connects to Maple Street, 707 Loop Spur, and the future Cedar Creek Hike and Bike trail. Eventually Abilene will have regional trails which will be a welcome component to add to the overall system.
6. Constructed beach area; stone barricade impounding sand fill, to be developed with water quality features. Swimming is currently a restricted activity in the lake. However, one can go to Kirby Lake just about any weekend in the Summer months and find fishermen, kids as well as dogs all enjoying being in the water. Due to high E. Coli counts, it is illegal to swim. Simple technological solutions exist that can strip the toxins and E. Coli out of the water bringing it to safe levels for swimming. This particular element can not be developed until the water quality elements are functioning to provide cleaner water safe for swimming. It is shown on the plan, however, demonstrating that this vision is a long range vision for the lake and these features may not happen for many years to come.
7. Constructed streams for water cleansing for interacting and walking trails. This feature is related to the above comment on the provision of a swimming area. Through simple bio-technology water can be cleaned to a safe level for swimming. In this case, the process and stream development not only provides clean water for swimming, but also provides an ecological system for kids to learn more about nature. Multiple trails weave around this portion of the site which were created during the master planning workshop for Work Force Solutions and has remained a part of the overall master planning.
8. Nature & Science Center for education, interpretation, and exhibits. Part of the long term vision is to have facilities, much like other cities, that celebrate nature in a more permanent structured environment. This facility could be a joint project of the area universities, also involving the various ISDs, city, and other institutions. Educational programming would be conducted here; lectures, environmental presentations and tours of local grade school children. Children's discovery spaces, as started in the first phase of construction with natural elements, water interaction and more are proposed to be expanded.
9. Hike and bike trail, walking trails, bat houses, observation stations, and oil field remediation site. The oil field operation likely has contaminated soils and will have to be on hold for development for many years to come. Eventually it will be returned to a more natural state as the trails continue to be developed around and through the area. In various places around the site are colonies of bat houses. Bats, along with bees and butterflies, are very important ecological operators and function as keystone species for stronger ecological health. Habitat for bats, bees and butterflies are reaching critical losses nationally and internationally. For Kirby Lake, bats will provide an important service of eating mosquitos in incredible quantities. Bats are also important for the pollination of a wide variety of plant species that may not otherwise have pollination. Additionally, this provides many opportunities for various organizations, such as scouting, to take on the task of constructing bat houses for merit badges or other awards.



10. Trail linkages around the lake including regional links. An important feature is multiple trails, short and longer distances are available around the lake. Many of which would be ADA accessible for the mobility challenged.

11. Parking, trail head and trash receptacle. In several places around the lake, parking and trail heads have been located to accommodate a small number of cars and to allow multiple points of access for cyclist to park, then off-load the bikes and ride. Trash receptacles are noted in a few places. The City will need to determine the appropriate locations so that illegal dumping can be controlled.



12. Hiking trails, primitive camping with fire pits, nature observation stations. Showing up on the surveys was the desire to have camping facilities at Kirby Lake. The idea was taken up on the south end of the lake, but only with primitive accommodations. Mostly these accommodations would be clearings on trails where a fire pit could possibly be constructed

of native stone, with a design to guard against wildfire. The fire pits would need to have depth to prevent fires from spreading off the camp site. Each site will need to be evaluated by the fire department or city representatives for the appropriateness of the locations taking into account the predominant wind direction.

13. Nature immersion kayaking zone. Kayaking on the lake serves multiple purposes. Among these would be fishing, exercise, photography, and nature viewing. Being a sport with a shallow draft, a kayak can easily maneuver around in the shallow depths of the south end of the lake where the environment is more interesting so two locations have been deemed appropriate for the launch of kayaks of smaller boats.
14. Parking lot with Kayak launch, trail head, bat houses, nature. This location is where the Water Department has proposed a new surface parking lot to provide access to the southern side of the lake. Taking advantage of this action, this master plan includes a kayak launch and trail head.
15. Primitive camping with fire pits, other gathering places, trails. Additional camping sites as described in #12.
16. Primitive camping with fire pits, trails and small gathering places and clearings for nature observation. Additional sites as described in #12.
17. Abilene Clay Sports. This is an existing facility and a major draw to Kirby Lake. The club has a lot of ambition and a rich history of participation including national and international sporting competitions. There have been multiple conversations regarding this facility, its desired expansion, the potential of conflicts, and its benefits to Abilene and the local economy. Currently the facility is investing a significant amount of money improving the facility and have petitioned the city to expand the lease boundary. These conversations must continue to discuss the barriers and opportunities. This plan shows a boundary that is believed to be larger than what they currently have, but less than what they have asked for. The primary consideration was to allow a complete path of travel around the lake without getting on the roads. This is for the cycling community, but also for law enforcement and emergency services to have the ability to access the entire perimeter of the lake in case of crime, drowning, boating accidents, and fire.
18. Buffer zone for safety. To address safety in a limited manner, a safety zone is shown on the plan that should be fenced and vegetation allowed to thicken to create a decent barrier for the safety of all persons in this part of the site.
19. Parking lot and trail head. The water department is planning on reconstructing the road that runs along the top of the west levy. This new road will intersect with 707 Spur. TxDOT is planning a

fencing structure that will run the entire length of the western face of the Kirby Lake Park and associated lands. Once constructed the master plan envisions developing another small parking lot with a trailhead for enthusiasts to hike or bike.

20. Parking along levy road for fishing and hike and bike trail access. Fishermen really love to fish on all sides of the lake and the western edge is no different. Small parallel parking spaces have been added to the plan along the proposed levy road and steps accessing the lower land edges of native stone so that fishing is accommodated safely. This was a big point in the stakeholder discussions and subsequent conversations with fishermen at the lake.
21. Levy road cul de sac large enough for trucks with trailers. Parking along sides and stone steps to access fishing on NW corner of the lake. It is the recollection of this plan that the Water Department plans on some manner of turnaround at the north end of the levy road. This turn around will need to have a large enough diameter to accommodate trucks pulling trailers since it is very likely that drive access across the dam may linger in the minds of fishermen. The cul de sac will need to accomodate emergency vehicles as well.
22. Hike and bike trail on dam and north lowlands, smaller hiking trails, bird blind for nature observation. The wonder of Kirby Lake Park is there are many different areas to experience. Even though the area of the dam and the north side lowlands are highly restricted, having multiple options for trails provides multiple options of experiences. This goes for cyclist and hikers as well as nature enthusiasts. The lowland side on the north provides a completely different type of habitat for enjoyment. These facilities have been discussed with the Water Department, but will need approval by this department once detailed plans are developed.
23. Clear field for events and open play. As with most parks, having spaces for open or free play is important. This space could accommodate small impromptu soccer or football, drone or model airplane flying and many other types of activities.
24. Parking needs are anticipated throughout the park as the variety of activities increases.
25. Picnic grounds with granite trails and sites. Stand-up grills, tables, native vegetation left in place



with minimal clearing. This part of the lake site has the highest potential of functionality since it has the highest level of access and utility provisions as well as an established center for the ball fields and existing playscape. Capitalizing on the existing features the picnic grounds were established to provide great space for family outings or to accommodate the large groups of people that come for ball games and tournaments. Since there is better access, more features are anticipated here with stand up grills, granite pathways, picnic tables, and potentially power outlets in select locations.



Within this space is a champion mesquite tree that has a trunk diameter of approximately 6' down toward its base. It is the largest tree of its kind likely there at Kirby Lake and should be preserved along with the other sizable trees in that area. As a general rule, as many trees as possible are to be preserved since shade is so important on site for families relaxing with a picnic or enjoying the day at the park.

26. Renovated parking lot and dock. There is much need for improvement at this location. On busy days trucks with boats line up and wait for long periods of time to launch their boats for fishing and entertainment. The boat launch needs to be expanded for double loading. Ample trash receptacles are also needed and at the time of this writing, word has it that some improvements with trash receptacles have already been made. The parking area needs to be formalized with the right dimensions to allow efficient movement of trucks with boat trailers including adequate parking for these trailers.
27. Small event space for performances. Having this feature was a special request of the city since they need more spaces that can accommodate events around the city. This will add a nice feature and allow a variety of activity that will enliven the site for different kinds of events. Orientation may prove to be a challenge for site planning since the slope to the water faces due west so the performance and patron orientation will have one or the other facing the sunset, unless the terrain can be modified to rotate the axis of performer and observers.
28. Maintain fishing edge below event space including access. Another challenge to the event space is these places for fishing are very popular with some very large fish being caught right off the banks. If possible, the plan anticipates leaving a band along the lake edge for fishing to remain, including the access road. This may present a unique quality of fishing while hearing a concert.
29. Parking on outside ring of ball park. It is anticipated that more parking will need to be added and this plan anticipates this is an area that can have additional parking added. However, there is a line of trees where the large champion mesquite tree is that could be a limiting factor.
30. Open area in trees for picnics including two pavilions. Due west of the four-plex ball fields would be more picnic areas. This land is a little more open and two pavilions have been planned for this area. One pavilion is located on a stockpile of rocks that, when groomed to be structural, would provide an excellent location and view of the lake on a small high point. The second pavilion is closer to parking to accommodate patrons with limited walking abilities.
31. Fishing edge with enhancements including stone terrace with stone blocks for table or seat. These locations for fishing are described in #4.
32. Constructed bird watching station near champion mesquite tree. A popular destination in many state parks are small enclosures that have walls of glass and darker interiors facing a small habitat that is well stocked with water and bird feeders. Inside the structure are interpretive signs

that list the various bird species potentially seen at the site. Being located at the picnic grounds adds a nice feature for families to enjoy while they are at the park for a picnic or ball game.





Chapter 6

Implementation

6. Implementation

There are several aspects to implementation. Most importantly are aspects of funding improvements and volunteer labor from a wide variety of sources. Below is a listing of more specific ways to keep improvements occurring. It is important to keep in mind that as many ways as possible need to be implemented for both active community involvement and for advancing the development more rapidly.

- Financing improvements through City budgeting and CIP process from year to year.
- Bond election where the public elect to impact their taxes through an election that is specifically targeting the improvements.
- Grant sources that are available locally, in the state, and through federal sources as well as non-profit institutions and foundations.
- Grant sources from corporate sponsors such as HEB, Tige Boats, United Groceries, etc.
- In-kind services mostly through the involvement of the local citizens that are eager to see improvements happen.
- Community service projects; these projects may be required of students, scout groups, and a wide variety of service organizations.



List of Potential Volunteer Projects and Activities:

Scouting or Other Community Service Organization Projects:

- Habitat enhancement projects; brush piles in erosion areas.
- Bat Houses
- Bird viewing stations
- Bird Blind Maintenance
- Plant native species (planting or seeding)
- Trail building
- Directional signs on paths and trails

Events for Participation:

- Love Your Lake; Keep Abilene Beautiful

Service Organizations:

- University groups
- Professional Service Organizations; Rotary, Lions, Shriners
- Dyess We Care Team

Grant Sources:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- US Fish & Wildlife Service <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>
- Local Foundations
- ArtPlace; artplaceamerica.org, funding for arts related elements in communities
- US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration; projects on public highways that include all types of mobility modes including cycling.
- Environmental Protection Agency may have grants available for parkland improvements.
- Texas Commission on the Environmental Quality; Texas Environmental Excellence Award- I'm thinking there may be some grant funds here as well.
- National Parks Service Programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Keep America Beautiful
- DRIVE: Developing a Reliable Innovative Vision for the Economy Act: Federal Funding Program
- Land and Water Conservation Grant Fund
- Big box retailers; Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, United, HEB.



Developing a Strategic Implementation Plan

Moving forward, it is important to glean from the information what the goals and priorities may be to advance progress on park implementation. The following goals are derived from all of the public comments as documented within this report.

Goals For Kirby Lake Park Master Plan Implementation:

- Establish priorities for funding based on highest ranking feedback from stakeholder engagement and public comments while ensuring that element development serves a broad spectrum of users.
- Develop strategies to source multiple funding opportunities recognizing that City budgets are stretched thin and realizing a more rapid pace of development will require alternatives to city budgets and bonds. In so doing, recognize that funding sources may be oriented to sponsoring specific activities.
- Incentivize active participation in the park by volunteerism both in cleanups as well as park element construction and documentation.
- Works toward partnerships for the park security and include in priorities, facilities that are less vulnerable and/or conducive to better security monitoring.

On the following page is a sample form by which to think in terms of a strategic planning document to keep focus on progressing development of the park. The items listed are from the public feedback for top 7 activities to be accommodated and top 7 facilities to be added or upgraded.

Each of these items are qualified in terms of the overall goals of the Abilene Parks, Recreation and Senior Facilities Master Plan listed below.

Overall Goals of the Abilene Parks, Recreation and Senior Facilities Master Plan

- Aim to establish Abilene's park system as one of the premier park systems in the western half of Texas.
- Focus on addressing indoor as well as outdoor recreation needs over the next five to ten years.
- Ensure that the park system will be accessible.
- The system will be well funded and will actively pursue partnership opportunities.
- The system will identify and focus first on "core" services.
- Parks in Abilene will be extraordinary and timeless.
- Parks will be community focal points.
- The City will focus on connectivity and linkage.
- The City will continue to value and preserve open space.
- Detention and drainage will be used as a green opportunity.
- The system will focus on sustainability.
- The system will continue to focus on reducing maintenance.

		City Budget Support	Bond Election Support	Philanthropic Support	Grant Support	Volunteer Support	High Cost Element	Medium Cost Element	Low Cost Element	High Tech Construction	Medium Tech Construction	Low Tech Construction	High Expected Use	Medium Expected Use	Low Expected Use	Consistent with Parks Master Plan	Notes Below
	Activities																
1	Trails			•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•			•	1
2	Fishing				•		•	•	•		•	•	•				2
3	Nature Play	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				3
4	Camping	•			•			•			•		•				4
5	Boating	•			•		•			•		•					5
6	Bird Watching			•	•	•		•	•		•	•		•			6
7	Nature Education			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			7
	Facilities																
1	Hike & Bike Trails			•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•			•	8
2	Restrooms	•	•				•			•			•	•		•	9
3	Fishing Piers				•		•	•	•		•	•	•				10
4	Playscape	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				11
5	Parking	•				•	•				•		•				12
6	Pavilion	•			•		•				•		•	•		•	13
7	Nature Education			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			14

Notes:

Activities that survey respondents wish to see:

1. Trails on the master plan take on a variety of character and level of construction. Multiple groups have discussed volunteering to blaze and mulch trails. Some trails will have a more significant material and therefore more cost and experience needed to install.
2. Fishing did not rank in the master plan, but is one of the most significant uses of the lake. Improvements include fishing piers, fish education facilities and simple rock terraces.
3. Nature play is what triggered the start to this master planning work and has been well recieved. Futher expansion of the program along with Nature Education envisions more significant facilites that will require major sponsors, philanthropy, and partnerships. This consultant believes that all of the educational institutions should partner together to develop these features.
4. Camping ranked high on the public survey and is an easy low cost element to add. One note of caution is managing the activities associated with camping and having a system in place for security and management. In particular is working with the fire department on fire safety and developing the right kind of fire pits.
5. Boating is already an activity although limited to mostly fishing and Tige boat trials. The master plan calls out the need and desire for the public to have more boating access in the way of kayaks, canoes, and sailboats. The plan calls for launching areas for these kinds of boats.
6. Along with Nature Play, bird watching and photography scored high on public engagement. The great thing about these activities is there is not much infrastructure necessary to support the activity and the facilities needed to stimulate the activity also works well with other uses such as trails.
7. As discussed in #3, nature education couples well with other activities and the master plan envisions a substantial development that would most likely be funded through private sources to provide in Abilene a significant center of science education much like cities of larger sizes.
8. The city-wide parks master plan calls out a hike and bike trail that circles the lake and connects to the future Cedar Creek Trail. The trail may go through phases of development with a mulch trail first then more developed as time goes on. Multiple grant sources are available to fund the development of trails. Hike and bike trails are a priority in the City-wide parks master plan.

Facilities that Survey respondents wish to see improved or added:

9. Restrooms are a much needed facility in the park and most everyone agrees that better facilities is very important to attract more people. Fishermen especially need access. Restrooms were called out as a priority in the city-wide parks master plan.
10. The master plan shows several levels of development including fishing education. Grants are available through multiple sources, especially Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
11. Aside from Nature Play, playscapes in general have been requested as an area to be enhanced. The current facilities are limited, funding should be both city and grant sources.
12. Parking is already an important need for the ball clubs. They are planning on their own expansion with parking but the park development will trigger a much larger need. City should be taking the lead on parking sites in conjunction with feature development.
13. The Kirby Lake Park Master Plan shows an area with pavilions for reservation activities. Its near other activities for the collective use such as the amphitheater and picnic areas near the northern ball fields.
14. As mentioned above, a very positive response for adding nature education facilities. The plan calls out everything from interpretive identification signs to a full scale nature science center. The later being more of a long term vision for the City once partnering institutions become involved.



A Note Regarding Four Wheeling or “Mudding”

One of the activities that began to bring awareness regarding the park and its maintenance was mudding. Primarily this was brought to the consultant’s attention by an interest group; Friends of Kirby Lake which operated under the West Texas Science Center, a non-profit group interested in advancing the education of the sciences including natural environment.

The damage to the lake and surrounding environment was discussed at length throughout the master planning process with a majority opinion of keeping this activity as an illegal one. However there were

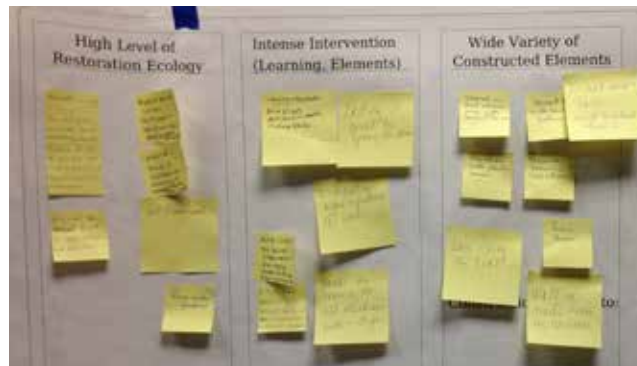
voices that understood the recreational value of the activity and wanted a solution allowing it to continue. It is the opinion of this consultant which is shared by the majority of feedback received, including the Water Department that governs the lake as a utility, that this activity should continue to be restricted. The consultant also believes that in order to cater to this recreational activity lands be identified elsewhere that would serve this purpose as well as other activities such as ATVs or moto-cross for the sake of the community that enjoys these sports.





Appendicies

Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Online Public Survey Comments
Post Card Survey Responses
Local Residents



Stakeholder Meeting Notes



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July 18, 2018

10-4-17 Stakeholder Meetings Notes from Recording

Meetings conducted by Mitch Wright and attended by City Staff: Lesli Andrews, Chris Gibson, and Richard Rodgers and City Council Member Bruce Krietler

The discussions have been edited for clarity and efficiency with the intent of capturing the essential points from everyone in attendance. Even though the initials are at the front of the persons section of round table discussions, others contribute to the conversation and are not identified.

Meeting format:

- Brief introduction to the project including work done to date with Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas and the ball field expansion project.
- Introductions of each attendee including their association and thoughts on the project.
- Open discussion with time remaining.
- Meeting scheduled time is 1.5 hours

Group 1; **City Department Staff: Matthew Daine, Rodney Taylor, Tony Lassiter, Scott Douglas, Marty Sanders, Wayne Lisenbee**

General status to date

200,000 was given to the city to develop natural play and education space by the Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas. A workshop was conducted and a conceptual plan developed for the east side of the ball fields area both north and south of the fields. The first phase that the money will go for is centered around the playscape for as much as can be afforded.

Postcard surveys have been started.

Girl's softball has expanded restrooms. Typically unlocked only during softball events.

That would be a long walk to the playscape.

MD: (Water Department)

Young kids, loves the assets of the city. Idea of improving the park is exciting, drive around with the boys in the park just to be out there.

RT: (Water Department) The north area is an attraction for **undesirables toward the spillway**.

The ledge above the spillway is popular with hanging out. Common uses OK with review. By the time the water department finishes the work with clearing from the toe of the dam, not sure how much useful space there will be left there. There will still be some **interesting vegetation** back there for opportunities. The other end of the lake is a lot more wide open as far as water utilities go (less constraints).

How is the **fencing project** schedule coming?



We're not as close as we thought we would be a couple of months ago, but we are in the final stages of a design. That was one of the missing pieces I found in the package given to me by the consultants. The fencing and the proposed parking lot at the south end were not incorporated so we had to stop and redo the plans to get that in. I would love to say that we were on track for the Fall of this year but this is pushed off.

TL: (Police Department)

I've been here for 29 years and our biggest thought is **security** obviously, we have lots of **illegal activity** going on there. The area across the street from where they are about to build the new elementary school, is a wooded area, lots of trash dumping, kids going back there to party. Across Maple from the old trailer house is where there is a lot of problems. Any area where there is dense vegetation or wooded area; the **roads are so bad** that it's hard for our vehicles to get back there. What I would like to see is to just bulldoze all that so that we can see all the way to the lake. We would like to be able to get around that lake without tearing up the cars. Once this area is developed maybe we can see better but now we have to be called to alert us to a problem to get us down there. There are some routine patrols that do this but we get really busy at night and it's hard to have a presence inside the lake area. It would be great if we could thin out the underbrush to open up those views. If a kid gets lost, it will be very difficult to find them since the brush is just too thick. We have had a lot of assaults and shootings and other things down there and to actually get out and look for evidence in that area and walk through that area is a challenge. We have had reports of people buried out there and we have to go search these areas for that and it is difficult. So for family friendly stuff we need clearing for safety. More lighting. Most of the parties after hours are to the north at the spillway. You won't find a lot of residents walking down there because it just doesn't feel safe.

With regard to the spillway area, the master planning can't really do anything about the spillway area being a water utility and flood water function but we can plan for better access and then have a three-way conversation with police, water department and planning to decide what is possible.

There is a natural boundary with the Cedar Creek coming in to the lake on the south side and for the area for different users, figured it best not to venture in the west side of Cedar Creek much at this stage.

Have you been down in there **after midnight? That's when most of the illegal activity is active** and you have to intentionally go down there to find out what is going on. A patrol car may take about 30 minutes to get all the way out there (to the points on the south end) to see the activity.

A person I came across on the south end on an ATV with a rifle strapped to the handle bars stopped and we talked. He said he was looking for a stray calf and that occasionally animals get loose and come in there. He also said that sometimes **animals have been set free** in there as well.



Will there be any conversations with **Animal Control** in these meetings?

No but we can get with them to have a conversation and see what their experiences have been.

We will be having a discussion with the gun club to find out the limits of shot and safety. The club is only shotguns, not handguns or rifles.

The members of the police often time go there to shoot.

The perimeter of the gun club is vague and the city is working with them to get a clear boundary identified.

It has been expressed that the **park needs a hike and bike trail that circumnavigates the whole park** and trying to figure out how that works. There are natural barriers with the creek, safety concerns with the gun club,

SD + MS (Fire Department):

Access is the biggest issue. Narrow, trees growing over, pot holes; any of the small roads that lead into the vegetation. The **upkeep of the roads is important** as they can be very destructive to the vehicles.

Due to the size of the area there is a need to have **two separate addresses** so that pinpointing incidents can be easier. The County 911 takes care of that. City could link with GIS. Calling in with a cell phone doesn't give you that data. Maybe in the future we can buy that technology.

Maybe getting **callboxes** on site is an answer

Trail markers aligning with callboxes so that the location is more accurate and GIS can do that. What about susceptible to vandalism or theft.

Getting **more people in the area, adding lighting, better visibility**, will over time reduce the attacks on the phones.

It would be worth it to allow for the loss up front, to gain ground over time.

Make the roads better for access.

The new school and neighborhoods will bring lots more kids and more **opportunity for kids to wander out there.**

Clearing underbrush can open up the visibility

We get **tons of fires** but with all the improvements, visibility, people on site, phones, then maybe the fires will be less frequent since mostly they are from the **camp fires** started out there.

Are there ever control burns? No

Part of natural play includes **landscape restoration; will a restoration process also improve visibility?** Clearing out salt cedar?

What you see isn't salt cedar but false willow; *Baccharis neglecta*, but the **clearing is not the problem but maintaining the clearing that's the problem.**



There are a lot of people utilizing the lake that would not have been thought of years ago. And so through the planning process, would not want anyone felt excluded with the resulting plan. The one thing that drives me wild is the trash being thrown everywhere that is clearly left by fishermen.

Where the oil well is, is another place where dumping is going on with dishwashers and mattresses, and with all the construction back there they are just bringing all their shingles and trash for the construction site and dumping it there where its convenient.

I wish we would catch some of these people and just make examples of them.

Well I found an encampment down around there where the oil wells are that obviously had been there awhile.

What is the status of the oil lease?

Travis is looking into a lease buyout to see if the city can get control back on that land.

WL (Facilities and Capital Improvements):

I get to figure out how to pay for any of this and right now I don't have funds to pay for any of this.

I have seen a tremendous amount of philanthropy around parks and open space, do you see that level of public support growing in Abilene?

General discussion about specific project and funding types; Cedar Creek Trail is a public private partnership (PPP) and private money is funding the Cedar Creek Trail project and some bond money is funding design work and access. The biggest delay is the railroad, AEP, and TxDOT all waiting on the Railroad. The full vision is from Phantom to Kirby but the first phase is from South 11th to Stevenson Park.

We have very little philanthropy in the park system except what the Cultural Affairs Council has generated.

I do think that interest is growing, it is that money just hasn't followed yet. The grass roots interests are there and are starting to want to see things happening. Lake Kirby being one of them, Hike and Bike trails and things like that. Baseball complex, I do think we are seeing that and fund raising is starting to grow.

Did the Nelson Park Master Plan begin to generate that kind of interest from private organizations or groups?

Interests, yes, mostly it was AYSA is what triggered that master plan and so similar to this master plan with Workforce Solutions funding the planning.

Young Professionals did a survey of interest and development of Lake Kirby and hike and bike trails were big on the Young Professionals survey.

I did a quick measure and found that if you were to build a simple circuit around the lake that it would be approximately 6 miles long. Also I know that the trails master plan reaches down into this area, through some of the subdivisions to the west according to Jon James in previous years and ultimately through Cedar Creek. The timeline associated with building a regional network of trails is similar to the timeline of Kirby Lake Park build-out. As you see more parks improved and developed, I think you will see that interest grow quite a bit.



I do think that the expansion of the ball field will bring excitement; they are just waiting on the city to finalize the plans approval. There might be subtle changes but the draft ball field plan is pretty well set.

The shotgun club is looking to expand their area and putting up a fence.

They are sinking \$100K into that facility right now by reworking some of those fields.

We just need to know where their boundary is and to develop appropriate safety zones.

The gun club has not had the ability to secure itself and they are looking to control the land to the water in the north and to the fence-lines west and south.

The water department is planning on extending the levy road south to the 707 Spur and I assume those conversations between the gun club and the water department are happening? Has there been any consideration to the gun club relocating?

Its an ideal location.

Well as the area develops I think there will be more and more pressure to move.

There people over in Saddle Creek that built their houses there because of the gun club so they can go frequently.

The water department road will follow 84 to 707 and dogleg toward the gun club to give separation form TxDOT. TxDOT will not allow any access from the frontage road on the West side anymore.

There is still a parking lot planned on the west side of where Cedar Creek enters the lake taking access off of 707.

The master plan and the works funded by Workforce Solutions, once complete to a point will then be leveraged to apply for a large Texas Parks and Wildlife matching grant of \$500K for further improvements. Part of the City's match is the donation of non parkland to join into the park and the tax role value of that land can contribute to that match. We have already discussed this with Rodney (Water Department) and he will require a MOU or other type of agreement to keep in place the necessary restrictions that the Water Department needs to protect and manage their assets. I anticipate that there might still be a gap in funding to get to the \$500K mark for the full grant to be awarded but some increment of that is very much a possibility.

The gun club would likely be excluded from that value.

The gun club harvests the lead that come from shooting by sifting the top layers of soil and then reselling this back to the patrons for reloads.

I see police an fire's concerns about visibility but we lived in the metroplex for several years when my kids and I could go out into the parks in the area and it was amazing how isolated you could become in the parks out there. The whole idea was to have that isolation from the city around you. That would be my concern that trying to be so perfect from an accessibility standpoint that you ruin the very effect that you have there. We have so few trees there already and then go out and thin it and clean it up would take away. In the Metroplex they maintain the vegetation but the trails are wide enough so that emergency vehicles can get through them if they need to and everything else stays in place.

I can see that as well in certain areas but the areas where the roads are just overgrown, if we could thin these areas out it would beautify these areas and help us tremendously to make it



more safe. Some of these places down there are so thick that we can't see and they have parties and fights and it's not safe.

How much would refencing start to stop the illegal activity?

They just cut the fence and keep going

The parking lot will have a more aggressive fencing that they can't cut.

The majority of the fencing will be the simple 5 wire strand fence except where the parking lot is proposed. They drive or cut the 5 wire.

With more people the activities will decline.

The process of securing the more remote areas of the site are consistent with the long time frame it will take to develop areas working outward.

Schools are coming; elementary is soon with the bond election but a middle school and high school will come along with the home development.

Rapidly growing triathlon community, interested in swimming. There are really great biking areas for these events close to this body of water and we really don't have facilities. Having these landscape close together is ideal plus the park to gather in.

Swimming is a challenge due to the E. coli levels which are due to the watershed inputs from Cedar creek and not from the water treatment that sometimes flows into the lake. So it's a process of cleaning the water and less of a problem of mitigating input from the treatment plant.

We need to be sure to look at the lifecycle costs and the operations and maintenance of the cost over the long period of time, such as we can clear the brush but then we have to keep it clear. More pressure on maintenance.

The city will always have the agenda of improving and adding public facilities, with improvements come maintenance.

There are often improvements where no maintenance increases have occurred to the detriment of the city.

Work toward getting rid of the false willow, a horrible plant and if we can seed something else in there instead.

Workforce Solutions has the agenda to get back to a more natural landscape

One thing to clarify is that the money from Workforce Solutions was not a grant but state funding that WFS had to spend on nature play areas and can not be used for infrastructure costs such as bathrooms, streets, parking, utilities, structures, but it can go toward educational facilities, boardwalks signs and stuff.

I think we can keep a balance and do what you need for security with trails and keeping access areas open. Keeping a mowed edge but also keeping areas natural. We are talking about natural areas around a lake that isn't natural.



Austin takes the standpoint of backing off of mowing areas for the sake of cost cutting but also habitat and stormwater filtering through a vegetative filter strip to trap toxins before they enter waterways.

BMX biking, sport biking, The police academy have a huge event of off road biking in the three day event at the police academy. Bike Town hosts it. Our bike patrol is not funded and this event raises money to support that unit of policing. Bike Town donates half the proceeds. Create something like this out there with small jumps.

End of Group One

Group 2:

Bill Wright, Charles Ivey, Mary Ross, Mindy Ross, Jay Packer

Might be able to get the new development to drain their stormwater to the park for a win-win for both the development and the park for the supply of stormwater for treatment.

BW (West Texas Science Center): The WTSC's mission is to promote math and science education in the city in a way that keeps young people engaged, and in doing that we know we have to engage with the parents as well. Bring in programs that support STEM philosophy of education. We know that in the past we have been bringing speakers in to lecture. We also believe that it is very important to have a nature park as part of our arsenal of recreation in Abilene. To this point, we have not had anything like that except potentially Kirby Lake. We have a lot of nefarious activities going on, becoming a trash dump. With a little bit of support we can turn it into an absolutely marvelous public facility that utilizes our investment in the land and utilizes the water make it a really nice place. Part of the background of this project stems from several of us have had opportunities to go to nature parks.

I-20 Preserve is an example

Tourism is now being attracted to these areas in massive quantities, South Texas, east Texas have really capitalized on this and turns out to be a multi billion dollar industry just for birding. We feel like this is something that can engage young people, seniors, in outdoor activities and so we are delighted that there are many funds available through grants to go for. We know its not going to happen over night and that the city has to fix the pot holes. We thank WFS for starting this going with that particular educational and vocational opportunity.

CI (West Texas Science Center): Anytime there is a lake in a city that is a magnet for people. To me the water and the lake are more attractive than Phantom. And if we can make this area a nicer area then we will gain benefits to many interest groups. For WFS to come forward with your project was just a wonderful way to kick this off. I just can't imagine a city having a lake inside it's city limits, not having more value associated with it.



MR (Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas): interestingly enough, We have two staff people that wanted to do something along these lines. One is in childcare and wanted to do something with **early childhood outdoor learning**, and one who is a master gardener. Brother is involved with a **biodiversity education center**. Read about a lady in Dallas that had a nature school bus that travels around. Here's a concept; WFS serves a 19 county region and a hundred childcare providers scattered around. So how can we serve, and it became obvious that we needed a central place to bring kids.

So Workforce Solutions approached the city and agreed to be a small part of a larger agenda that had already been discussed and in the works. That work being the Friends of Kirby Lake. WFS saw this as an opportunity to jumpstart a much larger project for the city. WFS's focus is on the early childhood piece and to focus the money there. Mindy started with WFS in July and brings a lot of expertise in this area and will be the key person working with this project. We've been looking at doing something like this for years. Something for school children for education and for tourism. Our families that we serve are low income and need places like this to go for free and accessible.

MR (Workforce Solutions): The educational piece is real important and we needed one central spot for education that they can come to and enjoy and want to come back to. Continue that passion for being outside engaging in nature. The STEM piece of education is so important and reaches so many different levels of cognitive development. And to do these things in a hands on environment is important.

Our training will include bringing people to the park and training in Growing Up Wild which is actually a curriculum from birth to grade 12. The first section is Starting up **Wild which is birth to 36 months and then you have Growing up Wild which is 36 months to 5 years. Project Wild is K through 12 grades. It's a curriculum based on being out in nature and has learning objectives that align with TEKS**, the federal standards, **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills**. Learning for children.

BW; We have letters from all of the schools; WISD, AISD, all universities and right now the universities are utilizing this place for research and having it town gives the opportunity to going much further out. And affords the local ISD students to be able to come to Kirby and do research which is the best way to learn. That opportunity is one of the things that really drove our agenda.

Did Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) design the program?

There were lots of groups that participated; The program is its own institution now with a website and of one of the highest levels of accreditation for learning. This provides a space so that educators can take kids and not just point to things but to have actual activities to engage in learning. The park enhances the experience.

Nature Deficit Disorder is now becoming more wide-spread, I see it in landscape architecture literature and research and also in city planning research.



BK (City Council, Master Naturalist): The gun club is a more valuable jewel in this city than most people realize. The gun club brings in a lot of people. We can not get the attention of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, they are not interested. This lake is very unique in its uses, not just the ball fields and playgrounds that are already there, you could say that people have discovered and utilized this lake pretty much on their own. With not a lot of contact with the city or anybody else. It has just drawn a lot of uses and I want to see...I want to be careful not to impinge on any of that, I also want to be increased, to bring in more fishermen, more people that are going out there to bike or walk, or whatever. The gun club is getting an expanded footprint. Also as Richard said, its not a natural environment and it is essentially what we make of it. If we try to make a natural environment then we need to define what that is there. This lake is unique in that its barely a lake but just an oversized stock pond. But the usual conversation we would have about ivy or phantom or any of our reservoirs **dredging** here at Kirby is out due to the amount of dirt needed to remove is impractical. But I wonder on this one. If we might give some future thought as we plan this project, looking to the future that in a couple of decades will be on dry land without the dredging.

That's exactly what we talked about with the bond election presentation was the more you have the mudders out on the south end the more the sediment comes in and over time will fill in unless we are able to control that.

I know that of all the groups that use the lake, that the mudders are the least popular overall. If they don't have it available to them there then where? If its possible to work it in then we should give it consideration. And I'm bringing up dredging, because I do know a lot about moving large volumes of materials, solid and liquid like earth. That may be something totally impractical but I think we should consider it and give it some thought. They dredged Lytle but opinions vary as to how successful that was. So if we are planning for the future then lets really try to plan for the future.

I asked that question of Rodney whether the lake had ever been dredged or are there plans to dredge it at some point and he said no. But it seems to be that as a utility which is what the lake is, that dredging would be part of their long term planning.

The lake may have been built for **flood control** but now we keep it full and doesn't serve as flood control anymore.

Please comment on the fishing since I heard you say that you were an avid fisherman at one point so please talk about the fishing elements on the current plan and how we can serve that community better.

Everybody are fishing for catfish. The rough flavor of the edge is not a problem for the fishermen wanting catfish.



As a mother and fisherman, one problem is that there is a lot of line that gets caught and the fishermen are just cutting it leaving lot of line with hooks. So with kids running around with that around it's a little stressful.

I saw a guy bow fishing and his fish and arrow were caught up in underwater line and was trapped. He was going to have to get in the water to free up his arrow. I have asked about how much broken glass is there under the water at the edge but there are just too many unknowns with all the trash around. That is why I took the strategy of keeping kids away from the edge by bringing water into the site on this one concept with Workforce Solutions. That way its controllable.

JP (Audubon Society) My career in professional bird and photography touring and education began at Kirby Lake. So having seen how sad the extent of the loss of habitat driven by human activity, bad economic conditions, people not having options. About 230 species of birds have been recorded at Lake Kirby due to the unique setting with water and the Central Flyway. Species that breed in the Artic Circle and show up here by May, by July they take off for the Texas coast down to the tip of South America. They need places to refuel along the way and Lake Kirby is a fantastic place due to characteristics. (Kirby Stories)

When I'm out at Kirby walking, bird watching, or taking pictures I don't affect anyone from doing what they came out there to do. And fishing doesn't affect anybody unless they are throwing trash on the ground. The Mudding is one of the only incompatible activities out at the lake. The reason for that are reasons like going to the lake and finding that places I've been before are no longer accessible due to the ruts and devastation. One person goes there and tears it up and makes it inaccessible for others.

Once being out on the levy an 18+/- year old **kid racing 35 miles an hour** and I'm with my 10 year old out there with me. The mudding and ruts are also incompatible because when you damage the land like that you change the vegetation patterns. And the birds that feed at the landscape types that type of feeding is disrupted.

There are similar facilities in different cities of the same size and those cities put trails or concrete walks around the lake and people come out and use these spaces for photography, for portraits, wedding photography. You have walkers, picnic tables, etc. I really believe that "If you build it they will come" and I believe that people really don't realize that they want to have a place like this until they actually have it. And so we can have a great place but we have too many roads that are not passable and too many vehicles driving too fast and too much trash on the ground.

If you have more park stuff on the east side and natural on the west side, if you put a single trail on the other side of the dam so you could walking in woodlands that are different. Then I think you will have this place that is wonderful or that serves lots of different people.



Now one thing not discussed yet is that there are a lot of people in the south part of town and there are just not any parks around this side. The mudders are the worst thing happening out there.

I like what you said (BK) about having their own area

The problem with having their own area is that they are still tearing up the ground and with the rains it will sweep that loose mud into the lake.

My understanding is that it is actually illegal right now, officers are writing tickets.

Yes that is the case but only around the lake bed and not upon the roads. That's one of those things that there are a lot of people that enjoy that and that's what they want to do.

They built a place , but the guy died and so not available.

Another point is that **the lake is free**. And Abilene is a lower socio-economic place. 60-70% of the school kids are on the free lunch program. The thing that makes Abilene a good community is that these folks have things they can do for free. And the parks are the things that they can do. And so we need to keep that from changing but at the same time enhance what we can on the education side.

I see a lot of things that say they are going to be good for economic development and if that happens, then great. But usually it never happens and these projects do not pay for themselves and then you have a bunch of mad people because you told them that this was going to bring this big economic boost.

There are a lot of day trips but the ball tournaments if they get up that that level of competition putting lots of people coming in and staying in hotels and eating out.

And so does the gun club and the gun club has the figures to show that.

So many things are sold to the citizens of Abilene but if you want a fight just bring up Frontier Texas as an economic stimulus project.

What is the gun clubs draw?

Primarily what the gun club brings in are day trips. There are people that go to these shoots and travel in their RVs and they will stay in their RV at the gun club. And the may or may not trade in town or not. There are registered shoots and right now they are not getting large numbers on their registered shoots. In the middle of their renovations they are not doing trap shoots but they are doing sporting clays. They are adding ZZ Bird or Helical which is a pretty specialized thing. Those are registered shoots and when they are up and running they will probably do two to three of those a month. And right now if they get 20-40 for a registered shoot they think they did pretty good but they want to step that up.



Now on the charity shoots, the Rehab shoot that's the big one and they will have nearly 500 shooters there in two days. I think the next biggest one, is Meals on Wheels and that's a one day shoot, not sure how many they get for that one. They're getting more and more of these charity shoots. Mostly when they get one out there, then they continue form year to year. And like I said the ACVB is not interested in these facts.

Now to be clear, the ball leagues are wanting to expand their facility so that they can draw the larger tournaments there for larger profits?

Yes but no: The main reason they want to expand is because the little league number of kids in their jurisdiction has grown to the point to where they can't handle it on their 4plex field.

So in comparison, is that part of the motivation of the gun club; to increase their facilities to cater to more profitable tournament events or to be able to handle an increase in membership?

In the AYSA, the league determines the tournaments. Shooting is not that, you can put on a shooting tournament as long as you meet the standards and do it. Now it will be up to the club as to how many shooters you attract and that is a function of how your advertise. I'm sure that there are restrictions, but the success is a function of the quality of the facilities to attract shooters and the effort to advertise.

Lets talk about the incompatibilities between uses. Bruce and I talked briefly about the range of pellets at the gun club and then establishing another 100' or so of a **no man's land** and beyond that is a pedestrian zone safe from pellets.

It may depend a lot on the wind direction and speed

The gun club probably has already studied that and there are limitations on the shot that they are using.

The lease is still being worked on so the limits may be determining that lease line.

Its my understanding that the lease line will go to the water's edge.

They also have the issue of the mudders coming into the line of fire and that's part of what the lease is and then the fence they are to build. They are having people coming into the line of fire.

Currently that area is not fenced off.

The **bike lane** regardless would have to find a path around the gun club probably adjacent to the ROW on the 707 Spur.

One thing that hasn't been mentioned is some point when Cedar Creek Trail is developed, they will want to have flows from Kirby Lake increased. Right not Kirby Lake doesn't have the



capacity to allow water to go down the creek, except for limited periods of time. So at some point the city will have to address that.

The water will have to be recirculated from Phantom back up to Kirby to get the level of flows.

Well the treated water could be directed to the creek directly prior to going into Kirby to help this out.

Some goes to Kirby and double that amount goes to Phantom now. But Effluent hasn't gone into Kirby for about 18 months. So it's being discharged into the creek carrying it to Phantom. But they could if they decided to.

Lets talk about the West Edge, the north edge, and the southeast edge.

The fishermen like that west edge especially when the water is lower.

But it doesn't lend itself to constructed elements. The water department likely would not allow constructed elements there anyway being the levy and construction destabilizing the structure. So is this area only trails?

So in this area that comes back lower to the level of the levy you could probably have a bird blind so that when the later part of the day and the sun is at your back you can photograph and not shoot into the sun.

Parking would be a problem there.

Could easily put parking on that NW corner where there is some space.

That area is all easements of AEP and TxDOT ROW and is at the connection of the levy and the dam. So still a problem even though there is flat areas.

The whole area is riddled with easements and infrastructure.

In the south end of it you can deal with it down there except that there are the mud pits and the gun club. Maybe some limited parking. And also is that the most advantageous location for a bird blind looking out to the points on the south end.

And there is a little pond there at that end that has a lot of shore birds.

Right at the point where Cedar Creek crosses 707, there is a huge amount of activity there where people access the lake. Mostly fishing.

Yes and that is where the proposed parking lot with the water department is located.

Planning the north side of the dam will continue to be an ongoing discussion with the water department. They are about to start work on the dam restoration and the associated areas including the north side where they need to drain the water standing at the bottom and clear a 50' minimum path at the tow for maintenance and access. Conceptualizing trails at this point



will not be useful except for notes and maybe symbolic graphics of a trail. So there is a lot of change and so at that point when this work is completed then we can define more clearly what can be proposed. And I will get with Rodney and Lesli about the alignment of a bike trail as well.

The southeast edge along Maple street is a pretty interesting edge. You can drive along the power easement for a way until you get to a drainage crossing which is heavily overgrown. On this patch in the same area is the old but functioning oil well producing somewhere around one barrel a day and the City is discussing acquiring this lease back and cleaning off all this equipment to make it available. What I don't know is how intensive will the EPA requirements be for remediation of the land once cleared of the activity and equipment.

Travis is checking into that.

Between the softball fields and the spillway is an area is where a lot of parties and drug activities go on. That is an area that needs to be planned.

Where does the park stop and the water department and street department begin and end?

What we need to do is call out the activity for what it is. If its drugs then lets call it drugs and have a discussion about it.

Yes you can find every color of condom out there right now.

So lets have a frank discussion about these activities.

Lets correctly identify the problem and then decide to do something about it.

Its easy to talk only about the activities that we are fond of. Mudders are people too, there may be other uses that are legitimate that need to be respected.

But the mudders impact other activities that truly are legitimate.

Where is the primarily mudding activity

The SW corner and when it gets wet enough then it's the roads on the levy as well and other roads.

The mudders are destroying the property, not only the lake with the mud flowing into to it but also the road system.

So how close is the illegal activity near the spillway to the children's playscape area?
(pointing to the map) Quite a ways.

Group 3

Mike Cornett, Natalie Goldstrohm, Michael Homer, Mark Conrad

SC (Fisherman) Fishing on that west side would dramatically improve if that got that **road fixed**. There are a huge number of big fish on that side but most of us won't subject our vehicles to it.

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Once we get it fixed and maintained then it will take the pressure off the rest of the fish. Not only that, you know about the pond, that will be fabulous for you folks for bird watching, wildlife watching. But the lake needs to stay full.

I've been using a wildlife camera out there and have seen quite a bit: deer, fox, raccoon, opossum, birds, squirrels, armadillo, have been sighted so far in the areas of the proposed nature education trail. There's a lot of wildlife out there that no one really sees.

I have a great passion for Kirby Lake, I spend about 200 days out of the year around it. I have an even greater passion for getting physically impaired people, and currently working with Disabled American Veterans (DAV) getting them out there. And our children; I have adopted more than one family this year alone, showing them how to get involved with fishing and how to be more successful at it. For years, several of us fishermen have tried to find one or more individuals that care about Kirby. I am High on this project! The more children we get away from the computers, and get them involved out with the wildlife, this is incredible. We wish we could have done these years ago cause we have lost a generation now that doesn't know about wildlife like many of us grew up knowing.

I fish for big cat out there but you know there's a tremendous population of fish out there and the wildlife. Where I set my first two rods in the mornings I always see deer tracks. Getting out there about 6-6:30, you are liable to see deer out there crossing the road, or a fox.

Mitch I brought with me several notes but you have covered all of them already.

Security; One of my biggest fear is that you will do this in stages, and you have to, that the vandalism will come in. because vandalism is a huge problem out there. All of us that are out there on a regular basis see it. From pulling trees up, we got to get a way to get security out there. I know that money is tight, I know that Chief Standridge is short handed, I know we are short of game wardens, I know we are short of lake patrols, but if were going to put this money into and everybody cares to work on it then we have to figure out a way. There's a way but it will upset a lot of people I care deeply about, and that put a gate across the lake entrance at the ball fields so that when the last ball game is done, or when midnight come and everyone leaves then law enforcement official come and locks the gate and drives the lake and chases everyone out, goes to every nook and crany and chases everyone out. And then that morning a concerned citizen or law enforcement can go unlock the gate and drive the lake to see if anyone is in there illegally, then get their tag number and make and model of the vehicle and report it to the police. They don't have to have a gun on their hip because if we just leave it open then this amazing project isn't going to last because certain people that delight in destroying things. All parks and public spaces are vandalized.

Safety has to be a primary thing; The kids, the boat launching dock out there is missing tiles and its not safe for people to be out there launching their boats.

We would love to see a large fishing dock put out there somewhere that would work hand in hand with the project you folks have going on. Build it into the ground. If we put another one out there that just floats, we will have the same problem we have with the current one, every time we get a big wind it will break up and then we will have to wait on the city or the powers that be, whomever to come out and fix it.



The **trash problem**; when we figure out a way to get the security controlled, then at the same time figure out the trash control. Its been about 9 days that the City has been out there to pick up the trash, or else we don't see them come empty the can and they fill up quick which is not likely. But either way it's a huge problem it's a rat problem, infestations and our kids are not safe out there.

The public toilet, putting this kind of money into the park, we are going to have to put one or more **toilet facilities** out there. And they're going to have to figure a way to **keep them clean**. The existing one is deplorable 90% of the time. Adults wont even use it. Who wants their child going into that place to use? Our ladies?

We want the trout lines pulled out of there and the jug line drastically reduced since that will improve the fishing. Mike and his team are doing everything... I can't say enough about Mike and his team. They helped to get this lake where it is.

The primary problem is that we want the high powered boats off the lake. **Kayaking** has gone crazy out here and it's a fabulous thing health wise. We had several years ago we had an individual that would simply come out and launch his kayak before going to work. One of our kayakers was out anchored and a Tige boat came by too close and almost capsized him.

I know that going to Phantom cost more money. I talked to several young dads that were excited to hear about the improvements at the lake and getting the trash picked up. And the joy of walking along the lake and not worrying about the broken beer bottles or the drug needles.

There are places out there where there are lots of unmentionable sex items and who wants their kids running around out there seeing all that.

You have the support of every fisherman that I've talk to so far.

(Showing the WFS Long range master plan) I have proposed removing this section of road so that kids on these trails don't have to cross the road and then creating fishing docks or piers and other facilities for an enhanced fishing experience with educational elements. We want to teach about the type of fish to be caught, the habitat, the process of fishing. The road that I'm proposing to be removed will convert to a trail and the width will remain wide enough for emergency vehicles to have access. But the access for the fishermen will be from a new access point shared between the ball fields and the nature center.

It's a minor negative but Wyle is putting in a new school there. The fishermen will complain some but as long as the road on maple comes in before you cut off the other road then it should be OK.

The other concern is the water level, when the lake level drops you have to be sure that the **docks are long enough** to stay in water, embedded in the ground.

So I need the contours of the lake bottom going out into the water and TPWD has this information.

We also need a restaurant or a snack bar out there. Or a food truck and kids get hungry!

It was mentioned to me by a gentleman here that there ought to be a **large dock** with a **restaurant and bar** out there so people could come out and what the sunsets in the evening.



And we need **picnic tables** and the folks out at Dyess would come and build the tables in a place that overlooks over the lake.

NG (Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries): Our goal is to make fishing better and with this park what we try to do is to get **children to connect with nature** so that they start to love it and hopefully want to conserve it. And pass that on from generation to generation.

Is the fishing out here catch and release?

No, we are encouraging it and I'm a member of a group that when we catch something 10lbs and over that we kiss it, take a picture and let it go. Now the rule book says that they want you to take 50 channel cat and blue cat up to 20", preferable those around a foot or foot and a half out of there every day because we have an over abundance of these.

We do, we have a lot of small fish under 12" which is the state wide limit for small fish. And the idea is that if we remove a bunch of small fish then it frees up the competition so that the small fish can get up to 20" faster. So you get that trophy type of fishery so if someone was interested in keeping 5 fish over 20" but if you are a catch and release angler then you get that opportunity to catch that larger blue catfish.

MH (Texas Parks and Wildlife, District fisheries biologist): Kirby lake provides a **green space** and **natural area** to our community. Green spaces we have seen in other places get people engaged with the out of door, not just connected to nature but for their **overall wellness** is super important. Also what it does for increasing property values, there is a lot of economic return for developing green spaces.

Kirby went dry in 2001 and refilled in 2002. It use to support before the drought some pretty good bass, substantial crappie fishery, always a good catfish fishery but over the years when they started to pump in effluent water then the catfish became the predominant fish out there; Blue Catfish, Channel Catfish, Flathead; a majority of the fishing out there is for catfish and the majority of them fish from the bank. Roughly 90% of the people fish from the bank. And Catfish are about 50-80% of the direct fishing effort. So catfish fishing is extremely important form of recreation at this reservoir. On the flip side the other anglers fish for anything, which means that they are there fishing just to have the experience of fishing. We would love to see some improvement out there, there is one pier that exists and **needs repair**, the boat ramp dock needs repairs, the boat ramp needs repairing because of the water level fluctuations and shifting which is normal over time.

The road conditions do **hinder access to areas for fishing**.

One thing I have a question about is with the plans that you have. Are you proposing to do anything in the area on the west side of the ball fields and road where the fishing areas are?

With this particular effort of master planning, it was intentional to leave out these areas from the planning since at that point I had not had the opportunity to engage with the fishing community as to what their priorities were with the exception of the enhanced fishing area further south. I



knew that the discussions about that area were going to be a much larger conversation, so it was important to leave that area out of the plan to accommodate those discussions.

The police did ask if we could thin out these areas when we talked to them.

I think that could be good, there are a lot of areas where non-anglers can hang out and it might make them more visible and may help out with safety.

If not, another alternative could be to extend proposed trails creating trail heads in those areas and creating a network of walkways that would open up the visibility of that space.

That probably one of the easiest ways; for one you are bringing people down into these places and to do some level of clearing to accommodate the trails.

The use conflicts are also something that we have discussed among ourselves as far as what we could potentially see and like what Mike brought up with the use of boats out there but we also have kayakers bank anglers and wildlife watchers. It may be about access controls. This would help with the illegal dumping and illegal activities and to help since we have deficiencies of law enforcement. Consider having access gates.

With the Tige Boats, what is the frequency of them being out on the lake? Is it all day or part of the day sunrise to sunset?

I'll say that Tige boats are a tremendous benefit to Abilene.

Yes sometimes at 7 they already have two boats out there.
TPWD has an incredible program to teach people to teach people how to fish and I'm on the list to be one of those instructors.

And to your point that is why I have this area dedicated to fishing education and for people to learn about fishing. I call it the Fish Camp. There's restrooms, cleaning stations, educational signs and information. Etc.

If there is any description that this magical place needs to be considering then I need to know. Does it need any enclosed space with AC? Does it need internet and telecommunications?

I would put one cautionary note that we may not want to put too much development down in one area since we want to keep this area more natural. (the comment is directed to the nature science center proposed up on Maple St and moving it east onto a peninsula where the fishing is and downsizing it).

Another thing that is static outreach. Items along the trails like educational signage throughout the trail system that offers informational tidbits about the trees and the wildlife, natural processes specific to Kirby Lake.



I have a sign list that I want your opinion on.

Part of our angler education program is we have these huge **Q cards** that we work with. Something like those where we talk about what knots to tie. That is another example of a tool we can use to educate and improve the fishing experience. Safety, things to keep when fishing. Fish sizes, holding the fish underneath and not from the jaw. So if you are applying to TPWD for a grant, and you are wanting to use their imagery, they can work that into the grant system and the MOU with the development.

Presentation of the trail hierarchy and character. The 4 trail types, regional hike and bike , ADA accessibility, rougher mulch trails, and smaller goat trails. Some trails with expanded areas for gathering and education spaces.

You actually just touched on something that I wanted to talk about, that of **outdoor education spaces.**

MC (Boy Scouts Executive Director Texas Trails Council): 2000 scouts, very large council. Scouts call occasionally asking what kind of eagle projects could they do or where. There is a big need for **scout projects, eagle projects** and Rick Hammer one of our scout leaders is interested in the Hornaday award projects which are more extensive than eagle projects.

There are lots of environmental projects all throughout a scouts career working through the ranks. Are the scouts aware much of the Hornaday Award projects?

Yes but it takes a unique kid to take that on.

Kayaking is very important to scouting, **Sailing** is as well and they use Ft Phantom. Safety is a big concern.

(Ball Fields) usually facilities of that type go to a private security system since cities have a hard time paying for the needed service.

We have Camp Tonkawa with a lake that is dry so we need **fishing facilities** and this one would be perfect since its in town and with **outdoor classrooms for fishing.** There are about 60 troops in the council of which there are about 25 in this local area. How many public access point do you have with walking paths and such?

The old fishing doc has an old boat ramp that is within inches is totally under water. Its great to launch canoes off of, it is a paved ramp but it has sharp edges on it so if you have a small trailer it's a good place and a little out of the wind. But large boats can't launch there. There is still a high area where you could build a ramp or boat access. It wouldn't work for a fishing dock since its too shallow over there.



I remember someone saying how close the hospital was and wouldn't it be great if people there could just walk out and go to the lake.

I met a guy with his daughter that were just down there relaxing while waiting on his wife to go through delivery of a baby at the hospital. Down on the ledge at the corner of the dam.

Yea that's a great spot.

It would be easy for people from the hospital to come out there when the road was fixed but now they have to come all the way around.

Levy remodeling will likely start in 2018 and car access will be allowed on the levy but not on the dam. The end of the levy road will have a turnaround. The dam will have a system of controls to allow maintenance vehicles from the city and pedestrians and bikes to move back and forth. I would expect that the beginning of the construction will include fixing the road to allow construction crew access.

There will probably be pushback from fishermen on the dam restrictions but that is a water department project not part of the park planning.

One thing that would be great would be an outdoor archery range that the scouts and others would enjoy. The closest range is near Buffalo Gap and the state park and it's a sport that is gaining momentum in popularity.

I'm a member of the gun club and I have been pushing them to add an archery range out there. And I agree with you that there is a need out here to add these facilities.

TPWD provides certified trainers if requested.

On the north side of the softball may be a good spot for picnic tables and pavilions or maybe even camping sites for consideration.

Maybe permit system camping spaces as a means of some revenue for the city.
End Group 3

Group 4

Councilwoman Donna Albis, Joey Light, Kris Wilson, Councilman Bruce Kreidler,

DA (City Council): I have young grand kids that play out at this playscape. We have the ball tournaments out here not only for the citizens of Abilene but that bring in people from outside



Abilene and I think that this is a wonderful opportunity to have this feature of nature experience. And I'm excited about the project.

JL (Superintendent of Wylie Schools): Lake Kirby is really within the district even though its within the city district. The corner on Maple doesn't look like that aerial now its already been bladed and is the future elementary school. Folks have said that there are not that many options for parks and I think this will be a nice to have this park for the community and easy access for us. None of our campuses are real far from Lake Kirby.

Its come up more than once that there are not any parks in this part of the city but also this is a growing part of the city. Currently I think I heard that there are about 800 rooftops coming in right there.

Yes fairly small area and that field has about 800 rooftops across the road from the park.

What do you think is the long term expectation of growth out in this area?

We actually are projecting that currently we have 4400 kids in the schools, and in 9 years we will be at 6400 kids. Roughly half of that growth will be on the east side of 83/84. That's why we are building schools on this side of the highway.

You have proposals to build a high school?

No, not actually, further east on Colony Hill Road we are planning on a junior high on the ridge of the hill on that 38 acres site. The elementary will be here facing the lake, and if we have to add another campus we are looking at the other end of that 38 acres.

So I was thinking that we did some rezoning out there on that tract and that the subdivision may have an opportunity to take their drainage for the 800 homes to the lake.

They have already crossed that bridge and have submitted plans for bidding and being so close to the lake they don't have a detention requirement. Maple street will all be reconstructed with culverts to take the stormwater and the Colony Hill road since all this is under construction will straighten out and come into Maple straight.

The trailer house there at the drainage... the house to the east of him, that drainage is why the road bends and back with Farways Oaks development and they tore out some tennis courts and they wanted them to fill that in and if that's concrete that you are talking about it may be that material.

Are there drawings of the road construction?

Yes Dana Shoenen (Planning) & Taurus (Interim Planning Director) They have this drawing.



So we are glad that the park will be there since its pretty good access for the kids.

Tell me about how the schools might be thinking about using Kirby Lake Park?

We don't have any current programming; I could see that happening, something that may happen more organically as a plan. We will be having a slow growth from pre-K to 1st grade. All that will open next year and the following year will be the second phase which will be 2nd grade to 4th and then maybe the 5th through 8th grad campus at the same time.

KW: (Science Coordinator for AISD): Currently I have a group of kids out at the Abilene State Park that are working with some Master Naturalist today. I could see the same kinds of activities happening out at Kirby Lake which is a lot closer than the state park. The state park is an out of town trip so its costly so being in town would be more cost effective but I would hate to stop going to the state park since they have some neat features there and opportunities. So I think we can take a look at this opportunity. Right now according to the budgets we can only take 7 schools this year to the park.

Is there a certain grade level that can go?

There is not, the rangers out there can take any age groups but I think the best range is the grades 3-5 are best. There was actually a grant last year but this year there is not so we are sending the kids that couldn't go last year out this time which comes out of the department budget. If it was a lot closer then that would greatly decrease that expense. But then again its not the same resource as the state park. The State park really likes us since they get revenue from us.

Are you using any particular curriculum like Project Wild which is what we are using to meet your TEKS needs??

No not to my knowledge. When we meet with the Master Naturalists they look at the TEKS and have been aligning with their program out there so there is that alignment. We bring teachers in to do some training but no real set agenda.

I think it's an interesting dynamic about what you are talking about between the State Park and the Kirby Lake park; a lot different ecosystems involved too. A lot of this revolving around Kirby lake would be the biology factors revolving around water the water interactions and systems and also the birding habitats involved there. Yesterday they did a good job explaining the different layers and I think it will be a great compliment to what you are doing at the state park by expanding the curriculum out even further for our science and teachers to be able to use those platforms to engage those kids. Kinda what we are talking about here building an educational program for kids as early as 0-7 years old. We are talking to the Texas parks and Wildlife education division, and their project called Growing Up Wild, which is part of their series



of curriculum; science based curriculum that starts at zero. And that's just in the first phase. There are multiple phases that go all the way up to adult learning. For all of the curriculum. Just to talk about the overall aspect of what we would want to get to.

Are your schools requiring community service for graduation points?

No unless it's with a specific organization.

Is there going to be a natural barrier between the ball fields and the nature areas? So will this get congested to a point to where you will feel like you are not in nature?

We talked about that earlier with TPWD when they commented on the large amount of trails that show on this conceptual master plan. I explained that being a concept I wanted to graphically demonstrate the **various hierarchy of trails (four trail types**: regional hike and bike trail, primary ADA trail, Secondary mulch trail, and tertiary "goat" trail) and how each had a different experience and character. That area has too many trails and when refined with actual on the ground alignment identification then the look and feel of being in a natural environment will happen.

BK (City Council): Kirby lake is a unique recreational site that people have used on their own. Except for the ball fields that had to be built, a lot of the utilization of the lake has just happened. And it gets a lot of public access people out there that you are not hearing about or hearing from and without actually going out there and talking to them, you don't even know they are out there using the lake.

No secret, I'm not a huge fan of master plans, plenty of people will differ on this but I've seen master plans that were done and voted on that were not great, less than good. I don't want to see that happen here and that is one of the reasons that I have gone to each meeting and each group that I watched, I'm trying to get the information from Tige boats for their use. I want, in the end, a master plan that does make it better for all the people that use it now. It would be great to get more users out there, that is the goal, and that we can actually do. There's no telling how many master plans that city has that look great and they are absolutely unrealistic and they will do nothing but gather dust. That is where I am on this, I think this is a good idea, and I want to see this happen all the way through.

You bring up a good point Bruce that we haven't talked about yet and that is putting in place a good **implementation process** to establish benchmarks for success and completion of phases tied to a timeline.

One thing for the schools to talk about is the number of ecosystems out here, the number of birds seen on site, and the way that the universities are using the site for their science classes and research, as we get to this point, we want to have your buy-in to have your students to have more hands-on in the sciences. I keep thinking about my daughter dropping an egg off the



football stadium... and kept it from breaking ... physics classes.. I know the universities are taking advantage of it. How can we make it easier to incorporate it into what you need in facilities for teaching.

I am an environmentalist and long before it was cool, and I think any opportunity that we have to **teach kids how to take care of nature** whether it is out under the trees or in the streetscape is really something that I am passionate about. We think about Abilene being country but as my kids were growing up they wanted to see their grandparents that “lived in the dirt” they lived out in the country. This is city to a lot of kids. The earlier we start to educate them on the need for us all to take care of nature the better. This to me looks like one more tool to do that..

On safety; I’m nervous to a little bit and I’m **nervous about the kids around water**. We don’t have many drowning deaths but more than we would like. So I’m always nervous about that. Now having said that, you were talking about the unique situation here and so my thinking on this is another aspect to get more mileage out of this thing. **And I’m not anti-anybody but there’s a property owner there but that corner there that has the gun club there, is in the long term, might look to relocate because that is a pretty prime area for access to that side of the lake.** The whole **west side of the lake has no access**. There’s the levy road. The lake keeper was there. Even over at the north side at the dam, we use to hunt dove over there. That area has a lot to be considered.

There are some of your students shooting at the gun club
If we want this to be in perpetuity then we need to consider dredging.

Discussion about the water in the lake and the wastewater treatment inputs and the E.Coli coming from the watershed.

Now coming back to the comments about the mudders and the aerial shows the med flats that in thinking about this the mudders get in there and churn up the mud and there aren’t creeks flowing through there so the mud just stays there. I’m not so sure that the mudders are causing the erosion problem. At least in that instance.

So with dredging, its very expensive and so at Ft Phantom to dredge for water volume it only makes sense in an emergency situation but at Kirby you are not dredging for water volume but to preserve the lake for all the other uses that occur at the lake. And so its not a water utility concern it’s a recreation resource concern and that is not what Rodney does and so it would not be an issue for him to consider.

The money from Workforce Solutions has to be expended by June and they will be offering the **Growing Up Wild course series to train educators this Spring** (April) so your teachers may be interested in that it will probably be on Saturday mornings out at the lake. The master plan will hopefully be done in about 6 month and leverage that for funding from TPWD which is an October deadline.



If you could shoot us the information about that training. We will start planning staff development stuff pretty quickly. We are going to have a pre-K through 1 group out there, not sure if they want to implement it that quick, its more likely at the beginning of the Summer for us to maximize it, so they don't have to miss school time and can utilize it for alternative staff development days, Or we can require it.

WFS is sending 100 of their people from their 19 county area through the program and its \$25 per person to do the training. If we know how many in the schools want to do this then we can pick a day and schedule it in that season.

The teachers like to do training in the early Summer.

It is a TEKS Program.

End of Group 4.

Group 5:

Marshall Morris, Brittany Burnett, Donna Albus, Taurus Freeman, Tim McClarty, Amanda Williams, Elise Smetana, Ashton Anderson

MM (Abilene Young Professionals of the Chamber of Commerce):

I think this is a great connection with the new housing development, the new school, new ball fields traffic improvements. I think that some of the challenges are just our routines, we are all creatures of habit and if you're not a little leaguer or a birdwatcher or fisherman I think it might initially be hard to get people to come out there. So we will have to look at things that will draw people in and change habits but it's a great space and again with the growth and the new things out there it makes sense.

We heard the comment that if you build it they will come so interesting that you have a different opinion of that. What does the Abilene Young Professionals do?

The primary function of the group is professional development, networking, helping to attract and retain or maintain young professionals which leads to an improved workforce and an overall better quality of life. Helping individuals get engaged in civic non-profit boards, helping to connect some of our university students that are moving up to our young professional world, made up of a pretty healthy cross section of ages, industries, experiences. About 550 members.

The group participated in a survey earlier this year and I would say that out of their survey was about wanting more areas that are natural, hike and bike trails, somewhere where you can take your family to. So that was one of the factors that help us align with Kirby Lake.



We are competing with larger markets like Austin, Dallas, San Antonio and Houston that often times offer more out door hiking and biking amenities. So having this will help attracting young families to stay in Abilene.

BB (Girl Scouts of America):

I'm most excited about the education factor, a lot of out girls like to be outside, there's not a whole lot here for them to do and learn and be out there safely. The biggest challenges I see would probably be the current state of all the drug use happening out there.

What do you see out here that Girl Scouts can get involved with for projects or achievement?

We actually do a lot of service projects, a lot of the girls are very passionate about planting trees, or gardens, teaching, I know that not all service projects, creating community vegetable gardens, things like that.

DA (City Council) Very excited about the project.

TF (Interim Director Planning Dept.):

I've only been here for a short period of time and have not had the opportunity to go out to Kirby Lake, but I am familiar with the development on the east side. With the proposed development, this area is going to be very active, a lot of trip generation on the roads. There needs to be a lot of connectivity for uses, recreation, and the schools..

Where did you come from and what was your past work.

I came from the City of Houston and prior to that I came from Atlanta as a planner and director of community development and building services.

TM (Past P&Z, Architect)

Lived here all my life, across the hwy for the last 30 something years. I have seen it dry and thought now it was going to be constant level. I have been in the lake with my boat. The boat ramps are in pitiful condition. The west south end is very shallow. The only reason I go there is to wash my boat. I do bay fishing and so I can rinse it off there. It would be great to see it constant level.

It won't be constant level but it won't go dry

I see trucks on the west side quite a bit down in the mud

The west side is looking greener with a lot of growth.



AM (Girl Scouts) Recently moved to Abilene and have been with Girl Scouts. Taking more of an outdoors approach. Our nearest Girl Scout owned facility for girl scouts is 45 minutes away near Sweetwater. For us to have a resource actually within 10-15 driving minutes for most girls I can only see advantages especially when you talk about a nature center. That peaked my interest. And my girls are also taking an interest in the STEM program; science, technology, engineering, math, and to just let themselves immerse themselves in native plants and animals any education classes would be wonderful!

The boy scouts have what's called the Hornaday award which is a much more aggressive project than eagle projects.

Girl Scouts have a similar award called the Gold Award for those girls that are older. Our facility is called Campus Oaks near Sweetwater and there are a few cabins, camping areas, a lodge for dining, and restrooms. The girls get the outdoor education for archery, survival, and more. Girl Scouts of America is going through a restructuring and letting go of thousands of acres because GS cant afford to maintain these anymore.

Is there any time when Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts join together for activities?

No aware of any.

I ask a lot of questions like these because Cities don't have much money to do these kinds of projects and more often than not private organizations and philanthropy jumps in to fund major project types that are heavily dependent on volunteerism to support the projects.

ES, (Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization)

I'm going to give you three different perspectives; 1, I'm really looking at how you are connecting this to the area neighborhoods through the bigger area and TxDOT and the MPO are doing a project of the continuation of the frontage roads from Abilene down to the 707 Spur.

Its been clear to the water department that the improvements to the dam and levy that there will not be any access allowed from the frontage roads so the water department plans on extending the levy road to the 707 Spur.

Are you looking at the sidewalk connections to the area neighborhoods or other improvements for access?

We have on the current plans to create new access points from Maple street.

It is a wonderful area and I'm also on the board of the Keep Abilene Beautiful and have walked all over that place and pulled out all sorts of unmentionable stuff. Its so great that you all are doing this.



Well its going to e a long term project and it will take a long of people to pitch in with great ideas and energy to make it happen but the first important step will be to secure the site from the trash and illegal activity. The water department understands that and has come to the same conclusion so they are re-fencing the property to secure it. It will only be barbwire fence at this point but they want to secure the site. We had one fisherman that wanted to see the city gate the whole property which surprised some of us, but they want to control access and the illegal activity as well since they want to enjoy the lake. But a lot of fishermen like night fishing but that's not allowed.

As a fisher person, that dock there is not good since it gets too shallow out there and the bank is not conducive to setting out a lawn chair since its so rocky. There's not a lot of space to do that.

AA (Keep Abilene Beautiful):

We have three boys. Two biggest concerns is parking. Parking gets full to the point of parking up and down Maple Street. Their adding teams to the little league every year and 800 homes across the street will bring them in.

We've gone down there to try to feed ducks and stuff but its just not conducive to that, we usually just go over the zoo for that.

And if they are adding another two ball fields then they batter start to think about another exist and entry point since that drive already gets backed up. And you can get run over going on Maple street.

Cheri Drysdale (Chamber of Commerce):

I live right behind Primetime. One of the issues that my husband and I talk about all the time is Abilene's lack of trails for hiking and also biking. My husband is an avid mountain biker. We have the area up north by the police academy and that's it. Its not safe to ride bikes in Abilene. We are both road riders and we don't do that here because people don't pay attention. And that has been frustrating coming from other communities, those communities have put a lot of emphasis on allowing folks to get out and do stuff.

Where did you come from?

San Angelo before here, they have a river and they developed that and their state park has over 50 miles of bike trails. We lived in California for several years. Maple itself is not a good place to ride either. Toward 707, the road is horrible. There are huge potholes. It use to not be that way but in the last 6-8 months its gotten bad. We use to ride down there. And you talked about getting down in lower parts of the land its not safe and to maintain the trails it would be a big job..



I'm also a Master Gardener and we work with Master Naturalist, which might be another group to work with.

Does Abilene have a sidewalk master plan or a trails master plan?
We have a **bicycle master plan** that was past a couple of years ago.

There has been some activity. Mostly on street facilities. The plan does include **some off street facilities**. One of the projects we are also working on is the buffalo Gap Road and that includes an off road path.

We haven't had any discussion up to now about how the park can reach outward with connections in trails and sidewalks so thank you for raising that point.

[Four trail hierarchy presentation]

Have you taken into account **people who are blind**? Looking at your trail it might be a little difficult for some of them to navigate. Have you thought about something on the sides for the blind?

Yes, there are bump rails along the bottom.

Good, we do have a strong community here that are disabled and are with the national federation for the blind. They like going places to listen to the birds and sit and relax.

You bring up a point that I have not discussed with any of the groups but some of my more recent research has been with "multiple intelligences" are you familiar with that concept? It deals with a heightened sensory experiential learning.

So Tim is making a bunch of notes that he will share with us.

I'm putting together a rough cost estimate of everything

I figure that all of what is drawn from my side of the design is about 10 million; piers, restrooms, nature science center, trails, roads parking, signage and other educational elements, etc.

Right not we are focusing on what we can get constructed with in the \$200,000 budget that we have. With the master plan we will be able to go after grants, most of which are matching grants. There are foundations, fundraising and other activities that will kick in over time to fund elements incrementally. We want this plan to be a manageable plan that can be developed sooner rather than later.

Does TxDOT have grants that can cover something like this?

They do but there isn't a call out right now and their transportation projects that fund trails are about regional biking and not recreational biking on parkland. If it's a trail that ties into the rest of



the network then that would qualify. They are usually 80/20 (Fed/City) or a 50/50 just so we have a better shot at it.

So it is a proposal that shows connections to an existing system?

Right so connecting to a network, sidewalk to neighborhoods, safe route to schools, etc.

Tige uses Kirby for economic reasons, its closer than Ft Phantom for testing new boats, one person hauls boats three times a day Monday through Friday. The boats need only a ¼ mile tract to run the tests. If necessary due to weather they go out on Saturdays as well to make up time. They throttle up the boat to get to wake board speeds to check the wake for meeting their standards. They record each test with a go pro camera. They usually finish the tests by 2:30 pm. If Kirby get to low, then they use Ft Phantom for testing. The R&D team usually go to Ft. Phantom since their tests go for several hours. To Kimberly's knowledge they have never received any complaints about their use of Kirby. If they were to switch to Ft Phantom, the cost to overtime hours plus the additional fuel costs would add up quickly with 15 boats tested each week.

End of Group 5 notes

Group 6:

Clay Trumble, Angela Allen, Colton Bailey, Ben McAnally, Nicole Eaves, Jeremy Faries, Chris Adams, Jim McDonald, Michael Rice, Douglas Kreidler

At least two fox are out there (according to cameras at the ball fields)

You have mentioned in all the meetings about not bringing people down to the lake edge, children in particular, is that because of the E.coli or just the roughness of the edge?

Mainly because I don't want to see kids drowning. I want to create a safer condition for kids to get into the water. There are two reasons for the water coming up into the site; First there is educational value of kids exploring around water and having interpretation there. Secondly the created "creek" can perform stormwater and lake water cleaning functions through natural filtering with biofiltration ponds, which can also be interpreted for educational value.

We don't limit access to Lake Ft Phantom and drowning is not a huge problem out there, and it's a well used recreational site by all ages.

E.coli is not introduced by the city but through the watershed and the activities in ranching and other uses throughout.

CT; Board of Wylie Little League:

Biggest concern at Kirby is space and the kids; we have the largest baseball little league from Ft Worth to El Paso. We have over 700 kids and play every night of the week Monday through

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Friday and pretty much sun up to dark and beyond with the lights on Saturdays The only day they fields are not used is Sunday unless there is rain on the play days.

The biggest issue as most everybody knows is that the south part of Abilene and particularly Wylie has added approx. 14 new subdivisions and the school district is trying to get schools built.

Yes we are aware that there is a elementary school on the corner of Colony Hill Road and Maple and a new middle school and ultimately high school to the east.

The international rules are that you have to let every kid play and we are simply out of space. We really can't play more than two games a night on a field, we start at 6:00pm. We've talked to other leagues our size and they typically have 6-8 ball fields. We host the Texas West Tournament which brings over a million dollars a year in revenue, by the City's estimate, **It would be nice to have areas for the kids to play while the games are going on.** Brothers and sisters that come and unfortunately the little park area that's out there is not great but there and any enhancement would be a great addition. **Parking is always a big issue with tournament days** having parking on Kirby Dam Road and Maple. We just flat out don't have enough parking.

Do you think your current master plan have enough parking?

I think so, we have done car counts on busy days and I think that this shows enough to allow everyone to park on a paved surface. Now they are parking on this grass field and that grass field. And typically it is not unusual to have 200-300 people out there watching baseball.

The master plan for the ball fields was to provide 25 parking spaces per dugout.

How do you anticipate your fund raising to go?

The Wylie community has always supported us pretty well, the biggest one we have done a few years ago was for \$65,000, we had 6 individuals step up and write the checks to reach that amount.

Just for the two fields we have estimates of \$250,000 up to over a million depending on parking and extras.

What is the lag time between games ending and starting, the point being how many cars and parking spaces are present and taken during transition times?

Typically coaches want their players to be there about 45 minutes early. The group arriving at 7:00-7:15 for the 8:00pm game and the 6:00-7:30 game is still going on so the busiest time is usually between 7:00 -8:15ish pm with parking turnover and people moving about. ON Saturdays games start at 9am and the last game starts at or before 6:00 so the games are 9-10:30, 11-12:30, 1-2:30, 3-4:30, 5-6:30. There are also the family the grand parents and also I don't leave my 9 year old so the family with another player may come later and we may have two cars out there.



AA: Big Country Running group,

80 members but 10 very active. Along with trail running also comes **ultra running** which are distances that are further than 26 miles and so in this area we are very limited in trails that offer distances. Our closest place for those distances is usually San Angelo State Park. So its great that you are thinking about trails out here and if we can get 6 miles or more out of Kirby then great. **Several of us spend about 8 hours a week training** and when we have to drive distances to get to a place to run then that chews into our available time.

The trails don't have to be especially groomed, when we go out and do these races a lot of these trails are pretty technical so I don't think this necessarily have to be something smooth or flat, we like hills. We are easily pleased, the rougher the muddier the hillier the better.

I use an app to find trails but normally they are short.

Also **Spartans and Obstacle Course Running is also gaining popularity in the area.**

CB Manager at Abilene Running Company:

Heavily involved with the Abilene Runners Club. **I think this could be the biggest thing that has happen for running in Abilene.** We have people coming into the store asking us all the time where to run and we have to just say un around in the neighborhoods or around redbud park several times. I think that if we have a **6-7 mile loop around the lake it would be the running hub for Abilene.** As Angela said it has to be worth driving out there to do. Also we would want to see **bathrooms, water stops** and stuff like that. Bathrooms every 2.5 miles or so would be a nice quality of life thing.

Or even just access points when you go out with groups and stage cars at places for water. The biggest thing though is distance so that we can go someplace and run 7 miles and not see the same thing twice. No running in loops.

So is 7 miles that you mentioned a benchmark for a metric to use?

Yea I think so, if I could go out and run 7 miles, that would be great.

And if you added in the extra loops like you talked about so you have options of the tight 6 mile loop or by taking the side loops extend that to 7 or 8miles that would give great variation.

Maybe a coded trail system, green trail or blue trail to indicate length or roughness? Does the Nelson Park Master Plan include running trails?

Yes there is space for a 5K and a 5K cross country course.

BM; Abilene Clay Sports

We have a lease agreement from the City Manager and we have been working with him about **policing that area** and out lease doesn't have a fixed permanent boundary fence but we do have



some fencing or obstructions that we have put in place. Just the trespassing the illegal dumping, and the random truck that's parked and we approach the truck, smoke billowing out the windows. Or we are finding illegal dumping that we report to APD.

So I guess its fair to say that you are pretty solid eyes on the ground out there in that corner of the property.

We patrol that, we police that, we have club cleanup days several times a year when we haul off a lot of that trash. A little history about the club, we started in 1958. Back then it was all trap and skeet shooting, the Olympic disciplines. Shotgun shooting has evolved into sporting clays and its like golf with a shot gun. You go around to multiple stations and the clays fly and you shoot. The direction at the station each time you go through there so its never the same twice. One of the things that really makes our club stand out is our fundraising. We have the opportunity to host about 20 fundraisers a year. Our largest for several years has been the West Texas Rehab. We have nearly 500 participants and raise somewhere around \$125,000 to \$150,000 a year for the Rehab. Smaller events we host include Wylie's project graduation, Meals on Wheels, and Merkel's Future Farmers of America. Our 5 year numbers show about 7,000 participants and about 1.7 million dollars raised for community organizations. The Abilene Clay Sports average about 900,000 targets thrown a year which means that our gross receipts are about \$300,000 for our gross operating budget. We have about 433 active members. People think of Abilene Clay Sports as a little country gun club, but it really is a diamond in the rough. We are able to have two full sporting clay courses which is like having two 18 hole golf courses. We also have two American skeet fields, and one international skeet field with different dimensions and speeds. That is what they shoot in the Olympics. Four trap fields in the ground, one being an international trap. And two Helice ZZ shooting rings. We have four internationally recognized programs going on there 12 months out of the year.

I think this project is fantastic; I grew up in Abilene and played ball when I was 8 and now being the president of the Abilene Clay Sports Club. Encourage all this. Our concern is if you are trying to bring a trail around the whole perimeter of the lake, the lake edge on the south end varies with water levels and so to have a respectable perimeter around the gun club we need the space. We have the 4H kids come out for training and safety training and someone wanders into our area accidentally. We have an fundraising event and a couple of dirt bikes came across so we all just broke our guns open and waited for them to cross. Shotgun shooting is a very safe sport. Shot shells dissipate, and range about 7.5-13 ft/second, and go out about 330'. So that would be a very safe perimeter. Most if not all of our shot fall on our lease and so we are very cognizant of that. On a rolling 10 year basis we actually have companies come out and reclaim the lead. They scrap the top inches of soil and run that through sifters and shakers to harvest out the lead and then sell that back to our clients and distributors.

The Colorado Club where the Team USA practices, have these shot reclamation programs and we modeled ours after theirs.

Have we generated any Olympians?



We have had several, in the early 2000s was Todd Henington a student at Wylie at the time. He was an alternate on Team USA and Travis Meers from Ft Wroth is a several time NCAA champion, a Team USA shooter that shoots here several time a year. Several student go on to Shriner and Lindenwood which are two NCAA division two schools that have feeder programs to Team USA. Doug Kreidler competed at the national level and has awards to show for that. I myself won the 20 gauge in my classification at the 2015 nationals. So Abilene is well known. We have people travel from all over the state to our club and we offer some items that the big club in Dallas doesn't for pennies on the dollar.

I need to be able to define what the shot limit is and then establish an additional buffer so that other activities can be programed at a reasonable and safe distance from our activities.

I have given this a little bit of thought. We did a **noise abatement survey** in the 90s and even if shot was directed toward the neighborhoods the sound is actually less then the highway traffic. It's a different noise but per decibel, its less. We really don't shoot toward 707. So instead of a running trail hugging the edge of the lake there might be an easement that would channel runners on that side of the gun club.

Currently we have a **\$150,000 capital project underway**, we have two new things going in. Our skeet fields are being completely renovated.

NE; Keep Abilene Beautiful:

We do the **Kirby Lake Cleanup every year** and each year we pick up a ton of trash that have been dumped.

Tell us about the stormwater education.

There are many different parts, we are TCEQ regulated and so there are educational components to it that we have to perform. Part are the industrial facility regulation education and construction site regulation education and then public education such as picking up after your pets and making sure your cars are not leaking, dumping grass clippings into the street, etc. Most of our education is through community events and booths handing out information flyers and PSA's, pretty much anything we can get our hands on to do.

I know Kirby can't be your only pet project to pick up trash in so do you cover all the parks?

We do, we have an "Adopt a Street" and "Adopt a Creek" program so we pick up litter there as well. We can focus on an area that has been brought to our attention, we provide locking containers for events to collect trash. We also assist with the neighborhood cleanups as well.

JF Wylie Fast Pitch;

First of all I think what is being done here is great. What we see is parking, that is the biggest deal.



CA Wylie Fast Pitch Softball:

I think that this is a great project but we didn't talk about what is happening toward the softball fields but I think it will be great for the community. With softball and baseball we together serve over a thousand kids who play and the families that join in. If you are targeting kids as your user group our kids are from 3 to 16 years old with their families. There is a lot of illegal activity that goes on out there down toward the lake and the only access is coming right between the ball parks and so safety is the number one concern. So in the Spring its both baseball and softball rocking every night so the facilities are going to capacity during the Spring. Parking will be along the dam road and Maple with bigger events. I would like to see something done for parking on the north side of the softball complex

Chris the plan is cut off but there is new parking planned for the north side of the softball fields.

The more we can make Kirby feel like a safe place to go to see nature, exhibits, trails I think its fantastic.

We focused on nature with the Workforce Solutions portion of this project and as Bruce said in our first meeting, there are a lot of different users out here as we want to be able to address all appropriate users and cater to everyone and hopefully open it up for more types of users that are under served; archery actually came up as a new use.

Yes but there is only so much room and there is actually an archery club closer to Buffalo Gap that is very under publicized.

With the trash collection with the ball leagues, I have heard different stories so I really don't know.

On the baseball side we have three dumpsters close to the main entrance. Typically during the season we keep these fairly full, we take out trash every night. Every night the manager and his team collect up the eight trash receptacles and empty these into the dumpsters and these dumpsters are picked up every Monday and Thursday. During the state tournament the last two years we have had a large dump trailer we have had volunteered that we park out next to the wooded area; 20' dump trailer with a tarp covering and we actually fill that up. The city provides the dumpsters and during the off-season we use to keep locks on them to keep for all the dumping.

So the city actually pays for the dumpsters that are expensive and saves the ball leagues thousands of dollars every year.

We use to keep our locked but with all the illegal dumping it just was piled up on the ground so we unlocked them to at least get it in the cans..



JM Bike Town

I'm pretty heavily involved with the bike club and there is a piece of property on the north side of town that has about 150 acres, right across the street from the water treatment plant, near the police training facility. 14 miles of trails. We **host a state championship tournament** out there every year with several hundred riders from across the state. So there is some benefit for the city from that. I think it's a **great opportunity for Kirby to utilize property** like that. Our trails don't cross each other for safety purposes. Its not the style of riding that you might want at Kirby. Kirby is flatter. And we have a lot of customers that have kids with bike trailers that want to ride and we don't have places for them to ride around town. Where city streets are accessible they people don't feel safe. **A great starting point is a 6 mile loop around the lake. It would be a huge benefit for residents to have a place to go our and ride safely.**

How would you characterize the type of trail that would be most utilized out here at Kirby?

I think that what I'm hearing about Kirby may be too tame for the riders at the north bike park Buck Creek Trail System. (it may be that the **tame trail is precisely what is needed for families to have causal rides and not technical rides.**) [conversation interpretation].

I don't think you even need mulch for the trails and if you are wise in how you lay it out then erosion problems can be minimized. We have learned a lot on how to build a trail that can hold up long term with lots of use.

I have been on conversations with communities about disc golf and the damage that they can have on an area. How does biking compare with that?

The **one issue we do have is with wet weather riding and so when we have rains, at the Buck Creek Trail System we shut it down**, we just lock the gate. That's not something you would be able to do at Kirby but that is how we manage our site and take care of it. We may not damage vegetation and trees but riding on mud creates ruts that will never come out. Even walking through it.

Is the issue about habitat destruction or is it a safety concern.

Safety.

BMX has come up in conversation so we want to explore that use.

I think a lot of people are looking for those recreational opportunities with a bike in a dirt situation, not necessarily with an aggressive off road trails with jumps, the BMX crown may. Also I think also part of that discussion is allowing opportunities for ATVs and motorcycles elsewhere. I think that is part of the plan is to provide a place for them to go too. They will want to be getting in there to ride and will find a way to do it.



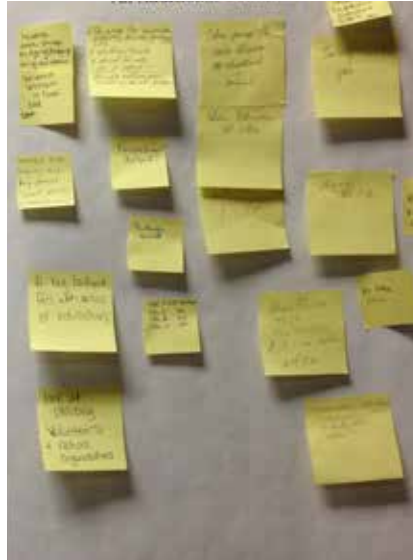
We have had that conversation already about the four-wheeling activity at Kirby that is destroying the land and the prospect of finding new areas for them to ride.

That has to be part of the plan, I don't know what they look for but they will find places like this to go.

MR Public Works;

I'm just here to listen and to hear the variety of comments.

End of Group 6



Online Public Survey Comments

1.	Please select the activities you would like to see added or enhanced?	Please select the facilities you would like to see added or enhanced?	What recommendations do you have that would help the City maintain current or additional improvements?
2.	More Abilene Police patrolling Kirby took my daughter (4yr old) go fishing and there was a lot of adult profanity and adult items along with drug paraphernalia along the banks	4 wheel drive vehicle trail with legal obstacles and improvements to the existing roads so a 4 wheel drive isn't necessary to navigate around the lake. Do not try to make this a camping area. It will only encourage vagrants. We have a beautiful state park only a few minutes away.	Trash cans Clear brush between existing driveways and lake.
3.	Jet skiing		
4.	Running trail all the way around	A path around Kirby lake would enhance it significantly. People would utilize a simple path for so many things. Along with a path would be clearing out the trash and invasive shrubbery. Kirby lake has limitless potential that could make a profoundly positive impact on Abilene's community.	Allow 4 wheeling in a dedicated area so the whole lake area isn't affected by off roading
5.	Walking and bicycle trail. I have lived near Kirby Lake for over 20 years and have always thought a trail around it would be an enhancement. I hope to see a lot of wheelers as well as the well not be safe for older and younger children. Since the south side of Abilene is the fastest growing area, it seems a nice children's park area would be ideal for this location. I'm very interested in this project and would be glad to become more involved.	launch sailboat	Use technology (security cameras) to improve security and safety of the area while less expensive than more
6.	Trial running (no pavement)	Outdoor theater	Better lighting might improve safety in early morning and evening. My husband fishes there and we both kayak so we use it at these times.
7.	Bike/hunting path around lake	Good boat ramps	Cedar Creek Trail
8.	Make it where you can actually get to fishing places	Trees around the lake	Letting trusted inmates clean and maintain grounds
9.	Running trail, the longer the better	Fill in potholes and maintain the road	Engineer to design walking trails. bike trails. SIDEWALKS!!!
10.	Possible lay out beach area	Trail all the way around	make an entrance at the Antley intersection
11.	Outdoor theater	Bird blinds	whatever would help keep it clean. It's not safe for me to take my kids there with the amount and type of trash that is there now.
12.	Plant Trees around the lake & add covered picnic tables	Disc Golf	Parks seem to be sketchy, so security would be a priority to ensure safety of our family coming
13.	FIX paved/ DO SOMETHING TO THE ROAD WEST OF THE LAKE! It's been used for mudding for so long that it's unusable to anyone without a truck.	Solar pad	Add more trash/recycling cans
14.	Stock Kirby with more large mouth bass.	Solar powered Lighted pathways around the lake	There are creepy people who hang out there. Not sure I'd feel comfortable going there due to safety concerns.
15.	Horse trails	Camping is needed	security cameras to catch trash dumpsters
16.	Birdwatching to include hummingbird garden	Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	better place to launch sailboat. is sandy bottom no rocks or sudden holes
17.	Running path/trail	Tailgating, cooking out, feet in the water, canoeing, kayaking places to park and launch a non motorized boat	Don't permit ATVs or off roading if it's torn up what path their are
18.	Drone course	More trash cans, improved roads, fish cleaning stations, a boat ramp on the southern side of the lake.	Clean it
19.	Hiking/Biking	Improve lighting, clear underbrush for security purposes	Neither
20.	Full soccer complex. 380 degree acres. Fenced perimeter. Less scrub brush that hides illegal dumping Lakeside picnic pavilions	public trash cans and city pickup	What recommendations do you have that would help the City maintain current or additional improvements?
21.	Full soccer complex. 380 degree acres. Fenced perimeter. Less scrub brush that hides illegal dumping Lakeside picnic pavilions	public trash cans and city pickup	Neither
22.	Who's paying for this tax hike!!!!	Walking and Jogging paths around the lake	Fences to keep vehicles from destroying the environment
23.	Swimming and coolout areas with SHADE to play for the day	Road maintenance	The roads being paved
24.	Professionals to their river walk. Something similar to what they have would greatly enhance our community and help attract potential workforce.	remove brush around lake for more places to fish and repair the roads	Clean it up so it is more open
25.	Clearing of undergrowth on picnic areas with awings and tables	Access roads need to be addressed	Keep the park clean
26.	Walking and jogging paths around the lake	Public water fowl hunting areas on south and west sides.	I think the city does great within current funding. Continue to seek outside funding for improvements.
27.	additional boat ramp	Park area needs to be kept up and mowed more frequently	Keep the roads around the lake accessible to cars.
28.	None	Look to other cities to check out their parks and nature sites; San Angelo river walk improvements for example.	Allow the sports league to maintain year around lake they used to. The fields were always in better shape when the city didn't try to lock them out during certain months
29.	Picnic Areas-some small areas for 1-2 people	ROADS	None
30.	walkways	clearing of vegetation so you can access the water around the lake	Road maintenance
31.	Swimming beach	The trash is too much	Clean it up, add parking
32.	Rock climbing, meditation area, recreational sports watchtowers, recycling collection	Disc golf course	Possibly more lighted areas if parking area is created, more trash cans for clean up
33.	More sites and access to shoreline fishing	Lighted walking trails	If this were to pass I would hope you would actually keep it up. Our city parks where "rich" do not live are not taken care of. Sporting facilities are not taken care of.
34.	Beach area and major clean up. Too much garbage and dirty areas	SAFETY. keep it if out no dark hours	Upkeep as part of what needs to improve in the city.
35.	swimming with a beach area	Disc Golf	and change a small annual access fee. Similar to lake Arlington
36.	Public water fowl hunting areas on south and west sides.	Water entry with planned transitions to brighten	Neither
37.	Paved walking trails	picnic areas, benches / sitting / observation areas	More efficient and judicious use of staff and funds that already exist
38.	More baseball/softball fields	No campgrounds or shooting of any kind. The potential danger from having stray bullets or displaced people camping near our homes is too great.	Site mgr that lives on site like a camp host
39.	Running path	Roads need to be maintained	Horrible roads needs feed
40.	Sandy beach w/ volleyball	16 hole disc golf course	Clean up crew - disposing trash everywhere
41.	Big playground area for kids/families	City roads	Make it a more public area. The mischief will go away on its own when Lake Kirby is a more public area.
42.	Botanical Garden!	Please fix the roads first Thank you.	Make the people that are at the lake more visible so that they would be discouraged from bad behavior. The city would also become more visible to the visitors of the lake and the increased city presence might reduce bad behavior (illegal dumping, illegal drugs, solicitation etc).
43.	Disc golf course	Running trails around the lake	Get people involved get more private donations to pay for this, and creating monuments (rocks) with information about sponsors
44.	Nothing until the City fixes our roads!	Needed comment area at end of this survey... for our input... not your generalized questionnaire.	Clear underbrush to make area more visible for safety
45.	Walking trails with lights	Thanks	Public awareness
46.	Disc golf	Clean areas for accessible fishing	Not informed enough
47.	Docks for fishing		More trash cans and frequent emptying
48.	Develop a "boardwalk" nice area with shops, restaurants, bars, and entertainment.		Seek grants
			Keep it CLEAN currently it has trash everywhere and is unsafe
			activ for crabs, bike trail all the way to Macle

1	Please select the activities you would like to see added or enhanced?	Please select the facilities you would like to see added or enhanced?	What recommendations do you have that would help the City maintain current or additional improvements?
48	Develop a "boardwalk" type area with shops, restaurants, bars, and entertainment.		Apply for grants, bike trail all the way to Maple
49	walking trails		Paved road around the entire lake
50	Kayaking		City trash cans
51	Docks for fishing		improved road maintenance west side road dumping ordinance enforcement better
52	Triathlon events		penalty signage & enforcement (ie. mudders unauthorized damage to road access
53	Trails for trail running. Not concrete.		patrol to stop teens from drinking booze after school
54	picnic areas		unknown
55	Obstacle course to encourage movement and exercise		Volunteer voucher. You volunteer you get access to the piers, play areas and
56	dog park		campuses.
57	running, walking		No answer, unsure
58	Fix city roads		maybe manage staff better with incentives for work completed rather than working
59	Please fix the roads first		wasteful hours 4 10 hour days options
60	Trash Management		MORE K&B CLEAN UPS
61	Senior and handicapped parking near by -available - new restrooms!!!		Recruit volunteers
62	Kayaking and stand up paddle board		Allow growth, volunteers maintain the sports complexes. Maintain the roads better,
63	An area where mudding is allowed		so kids are not tempted to get their giant Boudozer trucks stuck in the mud. If that
64	Walking path all the way around With wooden piers built out every so often for fishing		requires additional mairning, that option should be looked at.
65			infrastructure improvements
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1	Please select the activities you would like to see added or enhanced?	Please select the facilities you would like to see added or enhanced?	What recommendations do you have that would help the City maintain current or additional improvements?	Do you believe Krazy Lake should be improved?
2	Camping, Nature Play(scape) areas	Parking, Play(scape) areas	More staff, Hire more security	Significant improvements
3	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography, Sports	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
4	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
5	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
6	4 Wheel ATV, Boating, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas	Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff, Hire more security	Significant improvements
7	Camping, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
8	Boating, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Sports	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Play(scape) areas, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
9	Bro/Nature Watching, None	Fishing piers, Restrooms, Sports/Fields	None	Minor improvements
10	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Photography	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Primitive camp sites	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
11	Bro/Nature Watching, Camping, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography	Bed blinds, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff, Hire more security	Significant improvements
12	Boating, Camping, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography, Sports	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
13	Boating, Camping, Fishing	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms, RV parking sites	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
14	Boating, Camping, Fishing	Hiking/Biking trails, Parking, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
15	Camping, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
16	Bro/Nature Watching, BMX/Motorcycles, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Education	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
17	Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
18	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
19	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Sports	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms, RV parking sites	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
20	Camping, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
21	Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
22	Boating, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
23	Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
24	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Education, Photography, Sports, Running	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
25	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
26	Bro/Nature Watching, Camping, Hiking/Biking	Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
27	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography, Sports	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Play(scape) areas, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
28	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Play(scape) areas, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
29	Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
30	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
31	4 Wheel ATV, Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
32	Bro/Nature Watching, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
33	Camping, Hiking/Biking	Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms, RV parking sites	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
34	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
35	Hiking/Biking	Hiking/Biking trails	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
36	Camping, Fishing, Nature Play(scape) areas, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
37	4 Wheel ATV, BMX/Motorcycles, Boating, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
38	Hiking/Biking, Sports, Running, Judo	Hiking/Biking trails, Fishing, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
39	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
40	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
41	More Active Ponds, Antelope, Krazy took my daughter (Krazy) go fishing and there was a lot of adult people and add items along with our personnel along the bank	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
42	4 Wheel ATV, BMX/Motorcycles, Camping, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
43	Nature Play(scape) areas	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Play(scape) areas, RV parking sites	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
44	Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
45	Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Nature Education, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
46	Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Nature Play(scape) areas	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Nature Education, Parking, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
47	Bro/Nature Watching, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing	Fishing piers, Nature Education, Parking, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
48	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography	Fishing piers, Nature Education, Parking, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
49	Camping, Hiking/Biking, Running	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
50	Camping, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Primitive camp sites, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
51	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Education, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
52	Bro/Nature Watching, Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Nature Education, Photography	Primitive camp sites, Restrooms, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
53	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
54	Bro/Nature Watching, Fishing, Hiking/Biking	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
55	Bro/Nature Watching, Clay/Trip Shooting, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Kayaking	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
56	Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Sports	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
57	Hiking/Biking, Nature Education	Bed blinds, Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
58	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Sports, Jet, along	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
59	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Sports	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
60	Boating, Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Sports	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
61	4 Wheel ATV, Boating, Camping, Hiking/Biking, Nature Play(scape) areas, Sports	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms, Sports/Fields	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
62	4 Wheel ATV, Boating, Camping, Hiking/Biking, Photography	Fishing piers, Hiking/Biking trails, Nature Education, Parking, Pavilion, Play(scape) areas, Restrooms	Hire more staff	Significant improvements
63	Nature Play(scape) areas, Sports	Play(scape) areas	Hire more staff	Significant improvements

86



Post Card Survey Responses

Postcard Surveys; Handed Out On Site

Kirby Lake Patron's Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? _____

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? _____

What enhancements would improve your visits to the park? _____

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

1 Nature Experience 6 Fishing facilities 3 Paved access 2 Hiking/biking trails 5 Restrooms 4 Trash removal

Additional comments or needed facilities

I don't go there much because I live too far away. However, this nature experience is exciting & will be used by lots of people. I'm happy as a resident of the city that this is happening.
Loretta Falter

Kirby Lake Patron's Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? Easy access being close to the city & easy fishing sheds

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? Trash left all over sometime & the boat dock gets vandalized/poor condition

What enhancements would improve your visits to the park? Paved road on hospital side, better bathroom, new boat dock, double boat ramp, clean up lake

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

3 Nature Experience 2 Fishing facilities 2 Paved access 4 Hiking/biking trails 1 Restrooms 1 Trash removal

Additional comments or needed facilities

New double bathroom with plumbing would be nice, new boat dock to.

Kirby Lake Patron's Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? HELPING raise funds for Abilene non-profits at Abilene Clay Sports! / SPORING CLASSES AT Abilene Clay Sports

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? The trash at the south/west area, illegal dumping

What enhancements would improve your visits to the park? Better Roads & more patrols to reduce illegal dumping

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

4 Nature Experience 3 Fishing facilities 1 Paved access 3 Hiking/biking trails 3 Restrooms 1 Trash removal

Additional comments or needed facilities

The area needs more Access control to prevent random cars from driving around.

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? EASY TO GET TO, Kirby HAS LARGE fish

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? ROUGH ROADS, SMALL AREAS THAT YOU CAN fish FROM WITHOUT blocking ROADS

What enhancements would improve your fishing? Adding Fishing Piers, HAVE access TO THE WHOLE LAKE,

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects of fishing? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

1 Enhance Habitat 1 Docks/ Piers/ Ramps 1 Paved Access 1 Cleaning Stations 2 Restrooms 1 Trash Removal

Is habitat and fishing skills education important? yes

Additional Comments Add lighting all AROUND LAKE, HAVE LAKE PATROL AT NIGHT for added security

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake?

fishing, camping

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake?

~~people drinking drugs~~
~~and sometimes~~ ~~are~~ Drugs, Drunks, Hottraders

What enhancements would improve your fishing?

more trash cans are
trash picked up more

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects of fishing? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

2 Enhance Habitat 3 Docks/ Piers/ Ramps 2 Paved Access 2 Cleaning Stations 2 Restrooms 1 Trash Removal

Is habitat and fishing skills education important?

No coment

Additional Comments

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake?

stage of 10 caught
just fish with Grand Father

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake?

Fishing Area need to be
cleaned out and easier to get to, Need more security

What enhancements would improve your fishing?

lights, more security
able to camp out (even for a small fee)

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects of fishing? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

2 Enhance Habitat 1 Docks/ Piers/ Ramps 1 Paved Access 5 Cleaning Stations — Restrooms 1 Trash Removal

Is habitat and fishing skills education important?

yes about a (4)

Additional Comments

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? (1) IT'S CLOSE TO THE CITY - SHORT distance to drive to. (2) IT Provides Lots of Bait Fish - easy to catch

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? (1) THE Roads - paved AND dirt to the edge of the water not kept up (2) People Leaving their Trash on the Lake's Banks

What enhancements would improve your fishing? (1) Clearing of Brush around the Lake's Banks opening more Fishing spots (2) more security at the lake

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects of fishing? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

3 Enhance Habitat 2 Docks/ Piers/ Ramps 1 Paved Access 5 Cleaning Stations 1 Restrooms 1 Trash Removal

Is habitat and fishing skills education important? Very important - it provides clean outdoor entertainment especially for kids - it helps kids learn how to do things

Additional Comments Because of Lack of security - ALL kinds of drugs and immorality take place - especially in late evening hours. ^{no one cares about} keeping the lake up ^{more} better.

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? quality of catfish. A ten minute drive from my house

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? Amount of consistent trash. Road condition.

What enhancements would improve your fishing? Both of those corrected. As well as a more frequent law enforcement presence.

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects of fishing? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

5 Enhance Habitat 4 Docks/ Piers/ Ramps 2 Paved Access 3 Cleaning Stations 3 Restrooms 1 Trash Removal

Is habitat and fishing skills education important? The opportunity to help others with it is. Kirby gives me the chance to meet people

Additional Comments Having difficulty catching fish and assist them in improving. This saved was laid out by Ship Coon, La.

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? Great location & natural nature appeal

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? Dirty(litter) & poor roads

What enhancements would improve your visits to the park? Better roads, restrooms, hiking trails and cleaner.

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

3 Nature experience 3 Fishing facilities 1 Paved access 4 Hiking/biking trails 2 Restrooms 2 Trash removal

Additional comments or needed facilities

Need to close access to the lake @ 9:00 - 10:00 PM to cut down on litter & alcohol and drug use.

Kirby Lake Fishermen Poll

What are your favorite TWO things about Kirby Lake? Great Potential Community Resource
In town location

What TWO things do you NOT like about Kirby Lake? brown water
under utilized due to park/recreation space

What enhancements would improve your visits to the park? walking & biking trails.
the feeling of being out of town while being in town

How would you rank the priority of the following aspects? (1 is highest priority, 5 is lower priority)

2 Nature experience 6 Fishing facilities 5 Paved access 1 Hiking/biking trails 4 Restrooms 3 Trash removal

Additional comments or needed facilities I hope this plan is enacted as soon as possible.

I love the idea of feeling like you are in the middle of a natural habitat while being in the city.

Mosquitos would have to be sprayed ~~down~~ very often!



Local Residents









Mitch Wright and Vista Planning & Design wishes to thank everyone that made this project possible. So many institutions, groups, companies, individuals, patrons, city staff and city leaders worked dilligently to make sure that the project, at completion, was the most comprehensively developed master plan that has reasonable goals and concepts for both short term and long term.

A master plan by definition, has to address a timeframe that looks at the immediate needs but also the long term needs. If potential, more idealistic goals are not expressed on the plan through a long term vision, then there is no possibility of achieving more lofty goals.



Mitch Wright, Staking out trail alignment